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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

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Sarah E. Gannett, First Prize.

Oscar N. Seaver, Second Prize.

Hubert Edwards, Third Prize.

Chester Livingstone, Fourth Prize.

Burton McPhail, Fifth Prize.

The Kid's Christmas.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARAH E. GANNETT.

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trast to the two occupants of the warm, bright room into which he had been so unceremoniously introduced.

"Now, then, young un," said Harvey, releasing his hold on the urchin, "give us an account of yourself. What are you prying into honest people's houses in this way for? No you don't, young man! Not much!" as the child made a dart for the door of the room. "I'll just lock this door and put the key in my pocket until you have answered my questions. Come now, out with it!"

"Worn't doin' nothin'," muttered the boy. "Worn't doin' nothin'?" Yes, you were, too. You've been spying on us for a week, and I just think that you intended to rob us. I've a great mind to turn you over to the police, and I will, too, if you don't own up."

"I warn't doin' no harm, 'deed I warn't!" whimpered the boy. "I was on'y—" and he hesitated, turned gray with fright and the big tears stood in his eyes.

"Oh, Harvey," exclaimed his sister Amy, a pretty young girl of sixteen. "you frighten him so that he doesn't know what to say. Let me try. See here, little boy, what shall I call you? Ike! Well, Ike, you are too cold to tell a straight story, I know. Come over here by the fire and warm your fingers and toes a bit. We are not going to hurt you, but we want very much to know why you are keeping such a watch upon us."

The boy responded to the compelling pressure of the gentle hand upon his shoulder by seating himself in a low chair by the open fire and spreading his little black claws to the grateful warmth, and then, glancing up into the winning face above him he gathered courage to say:

"I on'y wanted to see yer gittin' ready for Crismus."

"Well, I like that!" interposed Harvey. "Stealing our Christmas secrets and—"

"Hush, Harvey. He didn't intend to steal, I am sure; but tell us, Ike, why you wanted to see us at work. You must have some reason for it."

"'Deed, I wasn't goin' to steal," answered the boy, eagerly, "but—but—" and he stopped. "Out with it," said Harvey, impatiently. "We can't wait all night."

The boy glanced at Amy, and seeing encour-

agement in her smiling face he said:

"Well, it's this-a-way. Yer see, Jim an' me we's partners, an' we's got a little kid to home what's lame an' sick, an' coughs orful; an' now Crismus is comin', an' she wants a Crismus s'prise the wust kind. Jim an' me, we wants to give it to her, cos she never had no good times, on'y poundin's an' kicks an' starvin's; but we ain't never had no Crismus, either of us, an' we don't know how it ought to be did; an' I heard you two tellin' some other folks that you was goin' to have one, an' that you was goin' to work fer it evenin's, an' so I t'ought I'd watch out an' maybe I'd fin' out how to do it. Dat's all, 'deed 'tis, honest."

"Who is this kid, as you call her? Your sister?" asked Amy.

"My sister? No, I ain't done got no sister. Her name's Katie Stark, an' she's a pore little lame thing, what goes on crutches. Dey 'buse her orful, cos she's lame an' can't do nothin'; an' long 'bout two weeks ago her mudder was sent up for stealin' an' gittin' drunk, an' ole Mis Plunkett, where she lived, turned her out on the street in a hard rainstorm, cos she couldn't earn the grub she ate; an' me an' Jim we found her a-settin' on the curb-stone in the rain a-cryin'."

"Who is Jim?" interrupted Harvey.

"Didn't I done tole yer? Jim an' me's partners."

"Partners in what?"

"Oh, we lives together an' shares what we earns. Sometimes we don't get much."

"What do you do?"

"We has newspaper routes, and sells 'Stars' an' 'Posts' and de 'Times', an' den we goes to de markets in de mornin's an' totes baskets for de ladies. Some days we gets a right smart o' money dat way, an' some days we don't get 'nough to eat. But, yer see," the boy added with a bright look, "we don't have to pay no rent where we lives."

"How is that? Where do you live?"

Ike started and a look of fear came into his eyes. Evidently he had not intended to let out that secret, but the warmth and the interest of the young people had led him to say more than he was aware of.

"I ain' gwine tell yer dat. Yer'll peach to de cops, an' den we'll hab to git out."

"No, we won't. Tell away."

"Honor bright?"

"Honor bright," answered Harvey, laughing a little at the idea of sharing the secret of a darkey. "That is," he added, "if I find there's no harm in it."

"Tain't no harm. We don't interfere wid nobody, an' a feller's got to have a place to sleep, an' to keep de kid, now, ain't he?"

"Well, tell us where it is," said Harvey, impatiently.

"Hoh! yes, an' have you runnin' to de p'lice wid de news!" scornfully replied Ike. "Not much I don't tell."

"Oh, come, now," exclaimed Harvey, "I'm not so mean as all that. I won't tell on you. Out with it."

"Well," said Ike, "do yer know that big pile of lumber an' old iron down back of de B. & O. depot?"

"Yes."

"Well, Jim an' me used to sleep there last summer, an' when we got de kid on our hands we t'ought it would make a fine private apartment for her; so we found an ole dry goods box an' turned it on its side, an' hid de place where we go in, an' dere you are. Suite o' rooms at de Arlington, we calls em, on'y dey is very quiet an' retired. But I wish 'twor a bit warmer," he added, musingly. "De kid shivers some, an' den she coughs orful, too."

"Gracious!" exclaimed Harvey, "I should think she would. The very idea of a sick baby living in a box in this weather. Why don't you take her to the Board of Charities or to the Washington Asylum or some such place? She ought to be in a Home of some kind and you too."

The boy started with alarm.

"But she don't want to go to no 'sylum. She's 'fraid o' such places, an' we promised her she shouldn't be took there. She cried orful cos she t'ought we-all was goin' to take her to the 'thorities. No, she won't go to no 'sylum, not while me an' Jim can help it," and the boy drew up his tiny frame proudly.

"But she'll die of the cold in that box, and then the police will arrest you and Jim for murder."

The boy's face instantly fell and all the light went out of it. Evidently the idea was not a new one to him, for he muttered:

"She ain't gwine die. We-all's done got a piece o' mattin' to put over her, an' some newspapers, an' I'll get a comforter soon's I can."

"Matting and newspapers! Gracious! Oh, here are papa and mamma at last. I thought they would never come home. Oh, papa, just listen to this," and Harvey plunged headlong into Ike's pitiful little story of devotion and self sacrifice, to which his parents listened with great interest.

"And now, papa," he finished, "Don't you think that Katie ought to go to some kind of a Home?"

"Katie ain't gwine to no Home!" put in Ike, desperately. "Jim an' me we done promised her that she shouldn't, an' we keeps our word," this last a little proudly.

"And so do we keep our word, my boy," answered Mr. Young, gently; "and Katie shall not be taken from you against your will; but we want to make you all more comfortable if we can. So if you will eat this hot supper which Amy has brought you, mother and I will see what can be done."

Poor little Ike's eyes sparkled at the sight of the food and he started toward it eagerly, and then stopped, saying:

"Ef you'd gi' me a paper bag I'd like to take it home to Jim an' the kid."

"No, no, my boy," answered Mrs. Young; "this is all for you; you shall have more to take to Katie and Jim." And Ike waited for nothing more but ate as if famished.

When he had finished to the last crumb Mrs. Young said:

"Now here is supper for Jim and a bottle of hot milk for Katie. Coax her to drink it all and then wrap her warmly in this big old quilt before she goes to sleep. Here is another for you and Jim to put over yourselves; and now we want you to promise to be here again, all three of you at ten o'clock tomorrow morning."

"T' kid too?"

"Yes, and Jim. I think we can find you all a better place to sleep than that dry-goods box."

"T' ain't—"

"No, you will be perfectly free to go away whenever you wish to do so."

"Sure 'nuff? Den we-all will come an' tank yer kindly mam," and Ike disappeared into the night loaded with bundles.

The next morning rain was falling heavily and the streets were running rivers of water, and as ten o'clock came and passed the Youngs concluded that the little "coons" would not leave the shelter of their box that morning; but long after the appointed time a queer little procession came creeping up the fashionable thoroughfare of Q. street, and stopped in front of the Young residence. It consisted of Ike and a boy even smaller than himself, both streaming with rain and carrying between them a rude litter of poles and matting in which was an invisible something wrapped in the old quilts given to Ike the evening before. The cavalcade was speedily conducted to the kitchen and the soaked covers of the litter being unfolded revealed a minute, wizened little colored girl of six years with a pitiful hump between her small shoulders. She was evidently very ill and gasped for breath as she coughed.

"Thought we-all wasn't never goin' to get here," remarked Ike.

"Why didn't you come in the street cars? Father gave you the tickets!" exclaimed Harvey.

"Case de c'nductor wouldn't let us on," said Ike. "He say git a ambulance an' take her to de hospital. She too sick to ride in de cars. So Jim an' me we jes' toled her."

"All the way?"

"Cose; what-all else mought we do?"

"Well," said Mr. Young, "you are good boys to the little thing and I like you for it; but now pull up your chair and eat your breakfasts, you and Jim, and then the carriage will be here for us."

Wild alarm was instantly visible on all the little black faces.

"Oh, you need not be frightened," said Mr. Young, smiling, "we are not going to an institution of any kind but over on Pomeroy street where there is an old colored Auntie who lives all alone in a nice little house. She is getting old and lame and needs just such active boys as you two to live with her and help her. She will take good care of Katie and when she is well she can help, too."

It was the "Night before Christmas, and all through the house" of Aunt Nancy "not a creature was stirring", when a low knock came at the outer door. Aunt Nancy was expecting it, however, and her turbaned head shortly appeared in the doorway and admitted into her neat little parlor Harvey and Amy Young, both well laden with bundles; while a servant bore a small tree already planted in its box. Setting this up in the corner prepared for it he returned to the carriage for two immense baskets and then, blanketing his horses, he was ready to assist in preparing the "s'prise"; and in an hour the tree, laden with warm clothing and a liberal sprinkling of toys, candies and fruits, stood reaching out its branches with invitation to Christmas joy and gladness in every spray. A turkey "wid all de fixin's," as Aunt Nancy delightedly expressed it, together with a big plum pudding, were piled on a paper on the floor, and the Youngs prepared to depart.

"But are you sure the children are asleep, Aunt Nancy?" questioned Amy.

"Lawsy, yes, honey. Dey'll sleep t'roo anything. Look yere an' see fer yousef," and Aunt Nancy opened the door leading into the warm kitchen and the tiny bedroom beyond; but alas for her rash assertion! Propped up among the snowy pillows of Aunt Nancy's own bed in a corner of the kitchen, and carefully wrapped by Ike in a shawl, sat Katie, now rapidly recovering from her cold under Aunt Nancy's care, her black eyes big and round with wonder at the sounds going on in the next room; while Ike and Jim, two little ebony shapes in bare feet and nighties, were dancing noiselessly but excitedly from bedroom to kitchen.

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"Bress my soul, chilluns!" exclaimed Aunt Nancy, "What am all dis? Git back into bed dis minute, Ike and Jim, or Santa Claus'll ketch you at it and dere won't be a ting for any one of you tomorrow."

The little black faces clouded over at once, and the boys turned to go into the bedroom as they were bidden, but Ike turned back to say:

"'Deed, Aunt Nancy, we t'ought Santa Claus had done come by de sounid in de parlor, an' we t'ought de s'prise was ready."

"And so it is! so it is!" exclaimed Amy. "Oh, please, Aunt Nancy, won't you let them have one peep, just to please us? as long as they are awake."

"Certain, honey, certain; jes' as you say; but wait a minute till I wrop up dis baby so she won't take cole. Dar now," and in a few minutes the children were all in front of the wonderful tree, Katie a bundle of blankets and shawls in the arms of Aunt Nancy.

Great was the amazement and delight.

"Ki! See dem clocs. Jes de ticket fer me."

"Santa Claus sure knowed ma size wen he brung dem shoes."

"Katie, dere's two, tree li'l gowns jes a fit fer you, an' de swellest hat! see, Jim, wid a red ribbin on it. Dat's fer you, too, Katie."

"Oh!" cried Katie suddenly, in a voice of hushed delight, "dere's a doll baby dere! Dere's a doll baby! Oh!" clasping her tiny black hands. "Might I hold her des a minute? Oh, please, please. I never had a doll, neer!"

Amy could not resist such a plea, and the doll, a beautiful great one, was in Katie's feeble arms in a minute, and the child hung over it in speechless delight, paying no further attention to the tree or to the chatter of the boys.

At last Aunt Nancy declared they must all go to bed at once, and in the morning each should have a share from the tree. She attempted to take the doll from Katie, but Amy caught a glimpse of the brimming eyes and trembling lips and the doll was instantly restored to her arms.

"No," Amy said, "It won't do to put this

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dollie back on the tree. She will be very lonely and she might cry all night if she had to stay alone here in the dark. Katie will have to take her to bed with her," and the dark eyes of the child fairly shone with delight as she clasped the dollie to her heart and was borne off to bed.

Ike and Jim followed, but suddenly Ike turned, and standing straight in front of Amy and Harvey he said:

"Dis yer ain't no dry goods box of a home, not by a long shot. It's way out o' sight o' dat; an' we all's done got anoder s'prise, an' dat's ole Aunt Nancy. She's done told us we-all's her chillun, an' she's gwine keep us fer allers. I wants ter tank yer, on'y I don' know how; and the tears stood in the child's eyes as he spoke.

Amy quickly held out her hand and took the little black one.

"You have thanked us," she said, "and you will thank us again every day that you stay here with Aunt Nancy and try to help her and make her happy; and, besides, I shall feel thanked every day that I see you trying to make a good boy and a good man of yourself. Will you try?"

"Deed I will, Miss Amy. Me an' Jim we ain't gwine be no street gamins. We-all's gwine to school every day as your pa done tole us, an' we earns our money nights an' mornin's an' Saturdays. Yes, I'm comin', Aunt Nancy," and away skipped like to dream of the coming delights of that tree and of the Christmas dinner.

The Meeting House Bonanza.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY OSCAR S. SEEVER.

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"YES sir," began my old friend Sandy Low, "there have been some rather strange runs of luck in these parts. Now there's ther meetin' house, fust church established in Montana." Sandy pointed to a churchy looking structure half way down from the office of the Twin Lead Silver Mine where we sat smoking and the ore railroad leading from Spruce City to the Valley Smelters.

"Calate you never heard of ther Reverend Dick Grilby and his meetin' house bonanza. No? Well you can figure you're it, then.

"Now Grilby struck Spruce City about '70 when it was a placer camp, wild as they made 'em you can bet. Regular roarin' hell all ther time. Couldn't breathe unless you roared. Wouldn't think it now would you—a tuck me up in bed little community like this? No sir! Now there were eight other camps down ther gulch considerably wild themselves, and as Grilby came into camp that way, he had to pass ther whole procession. 'Bout ther time he reached ther band which was Spruce City, he figured that he'd located about as much cussedness as one sky pilot had any use fer, and same bein' biled down in the bottom of our gulch handy like, he calated he'd stay. So me bein' single and a respectable sort of a cuss, he went snacks on my cabin.

"Wall ther camp wan't sendin' him no dinner cards. Couldn't figure on his use. But I seed Grilby was a square feller and got to likin' him. The boys at the Paradise expected he'd begin to rant about ther gilded halls of vice, and sich and they might have to hurt his feelin's puttin' him and ther camp on congenial terms. Red Harvey, ther proprietor rather egged on sich feelin's, expectin' there'd be fun.

"But Grilby warnt that sort. He was a big feller, didn't look particularly tame, read his bible considerable but didn't pester ther boys with it a bit. What stuck in his crop was what he called ther grounded viciousness of ther place which meant ther hooray times Sundays at ther Paradise. Every time he heard yellin' or shootin' he'd grit his teeth and git ugly until one wide open night when ther whole gulch came in to camp and was ther cause of three funerals next day, Grilby up and swore he'd turn ther Paradise from ther hell trap it was into a house of ther Lord.

"That's ther house of ther lord down there, pardner; just as he said he'd do; and I cal'ate I'm ther oldest member countin' absences.

"Well, havin' laid out his proposition he didn't git flirts whenever he heard a hooray time goin' on. Just because he didn't rant and yell and git argumentative ther boys had to give up importin' a bucket of tar which they had speculated on. Red Harvey was rather disappointed at that, bein' rather an ornery cuss. Asked me one day when my pardner ther sky pilot was comin' down to give his song and dance. I says, 'pretty soon,' but ther dance would be on ther chest of ther fust man what didn't encore his song, which shet Red Harvey up.

"But that warn't ther preacher's game. As I said he was a giant and naturally got respectable treatment. Now he begun to strike in

with ther boys private like. He could talk more horse sense in a minute than you could figure out in a week, could swap ther lie of any man in camp and pretty soon he had our cabin so packed Sunday mornin's listening to him that you had to git up and go outside every five minutes to git a full breath of air.

"Now ther pints in favor of sich piety were two. Spruce City and ther rest of ther gulch was gittin' worked out, which put a serious rook on ther future and ther boys warn't doin' anythin' agin Providence. Furthermore and particularly ther preacher served out free 'bacey and didn't pass ther plate. So our meetin' got bigger every Sunday and ther preacher got more influential.

"Fer instance he didn't talk agin ther bar and faro at ther Paradise. No sir! And after meetin' when he watched ther boys saunter into an open switch he didn't git flirts. No sir! He'd smile, say they got then habit so bad that they couldn't break it when he'd turned ther place into a church. Then he'd drop down himself occasionally to see how ther land lay for beginnin' operations.

"Now every time he did that, he got into an argument with Red Harvey. Red Harvey had opposed ther preacher from ther fust, same naturally bein' agin his interests. He felt ther loss of his Sunday mornin' trade and had a weakness fer short handles, meanin' ther preacher, which warn't never invented fer tombstones or public monuments. What he should have put to times and clean ups in his books he charged up to ther preacher and swore some day he'd settle ther bill. But Red Harvey was fer makin' ther best of a losin' game and when he seed how influential ther preacher was he speculated on a junction of interests. Sorter Sky Pilot and Hell Settler Big Combination.

"So one day when ther preacher sauntered in to figure on how many pews ther bar would make, Red begun:

"Calate you must be crowded up to ther cabin," says he.

"How'd yer git that bright idea," says ther preacher, eyein' Red, who'd never been to ther meetin's.

"Well, preacher," says Red laughin', "when I see arms and legs stickin' out of a man's door and windows and chimney, I calate he must be crowded."

"So?" says ther preacher. "Been sacrificin' your room for some other poor cuss. Ruther accommodatin' but come right along, Red Harvey, there's just room for another in thet chimney." At which ther whole crowd laughed.

"Thet would seem to put ther liquor on me," says Red, knowin' ther preacher's sore pint. "And I'm offerin' it," says he tryin' to git ther preacher in ther ditch.

"But I offered fust," says ther preacher.

"Exactly the situation Sunday, you fust then me," and Red laughed at ther preacher.

"Sich bein' ther case, we'll let you have a turn now, ther liquor bein' 'on you,' says ther preacher winkin' at ther boys as he sauntered out. And Red Harvey had to set up ther liquor all 'round, which warn't never his idea of amusement.

"Ther next interview fer formin' ther Big Combination was in private and more to ther pint. Red's proposition was a canvass and crusade of ther whole gulch fer ther purpose of big Sunday meetin's to be hold at the Paradise. Red calated that about three months of that diet would grow wings on every man, woman and child in them parts.

"Well you should have heard ther preacher laugh. Sunday was Harvey's big day, but wasn't amountin' to much just then fer ther boys had got to hangin' about ther cabin all day smokin' and swappin' lies, so Red's scheme was too thin.

"I'll do better than draw trade fer you," says Grilby, "I'll buy you out."

"That's just what he did, too. He took ther building and ther general store took ther stock and good will. Red swore he'd been driv' out of business by a sky pilot, usin' more sentiment that warn't meant fer ther adornment of public institutions, and swore that if he didn't get quit with ther preacher when ther chance come, you could fill his boots with cactus every mornin' for a week and he'd wear 'em. But strikes had located been north and Red sold out to rush with ther rest of ther boys to ther new fields of fortune.

"Now I helped Grilby turn that saloon into a church. He was as tickled as a kid with a go-cart. Contracted a mortgage to do it proper. Had a big sign packed up from ther valley, which read "Meetin' House of Spruce City" and tacked it up over ther door. But we found we hadn't done enough. One mornin' a prospectin' outfit come in from ther hills, pulled up natural like in front of ther old Paradise and half out of their saddles slid back again, rippin' out a cuss at what stared down at 'em from above ther door.

"That set Grilby to contractin' a second mortgage; paintin' up ther windows and doors; puttin' on a steeple and paintin' ther whole outfit yaller. That put a new look on ther church all right but it put a heavy debt on it besides. People leavin' as fast as they did made that debt look bad. But ther preacher didn't worry. Said when me and him was ther only citerezens, Spruce City would be a respectable God fearin' community.

"'Bout four years after, this yere Twin Leads Silver Mine was discovered and to see outfits pile in here was like oid times. Anythin' with a roof was snapped up quick. Now who should turn up but Red Harvey sot on gettin' into bizness at the oid stand. Of course he wanted ther Paradise and smacked his lips at ther new fixin's but Grilby would have killed himself before lettin' it go.

"Well, Red got on ther trail of those mortgages and inside of a week had put ruther a flimsy look on ther salvation of Spruce City. He had to pay a fancy price and allow three months fer settlement on those mortgages which we thought rather generous, same bein' due two years back.

"Red Harvey seed he had a cinch on ther preacher and started right in to get quits fer past favors. Ruther enjoyed himself at ther preacher's expense. Told people how he was goin' to open ther Meetin' House as a palatial saloon and gamblin' hall, which got folks interested and they begun to watch ther game.

"On ther last day of ther three months, Red came up to ther cabin to see ther preacher, a considerable crowd follerin'. Me, ther preacher and Jack Kedham, an oid pardner of Grilby's just out from California, was there.

"Well, preacher," says Red, "time's up and bizness is bizness. Hev you got ther dust?"

"Calate I ain't exactly got it to hand, but I've got three days of grace," says ther preacher cool like.

"That won't do. Got to have settlement or I'll foreclose. Maybe then," says Red, nasty like, "you'll find it agreeable to form that partnership I proposed four years ago."

"Seems to me you're pesky sure of somethin' you ain't got yet," says Grilby, eyeing Red.

"What kin you do to stop my gettin' it?" says Red, sneerin'.

"Suppose I should shoot yer," says ther preacher, and the crowd opened up behind Red.

"That's ruther agin your principles," says Red, scared like.

"So! Suppose I should burn ther church then," says ther preacher.

"Calate you're playin' fair?" says Red.

"I might do either," thundered ther preacher, gettin' up on his feet, "before seein' a house of God desecrated."

"It was evident that ther crowd was with the preacher from ther lynchin' remarks that was made.

"I'll give yer them days of grace, up to noon followin' Sunday, but remember ther yer house of God was a saloon for eight years gut," says Red and struck out, ther atmosphere not bein' good fer his lungs.

"I calate ther preacher was about as broken up over ther prospects of losin' his church as he could be, but as I said there have been some queer runs of luck in these parts.

"Says Kedham from California, when ther crowd had dispersed: 'You say that church was a saloon once?'

"Yes, sir, ther worst in these parts. I swore I'd make a church out of it and I've done it," says Grilby, ruther discouraged like.

"For how long was it a saloon?" says Kedham.

"Eight years," says I, "roarin' all ther time, and I give a few statistics.

"What yer goin' to do now, Dick," says Kedham.

"What I've never done; pass the plate, to-morrow bein' Sabbath," says ther preacher.

"No, yer won't," says Kedham. "You fellers in this gulch don't seem to be up to date. Been in minin' camps all yer lives and know that yer can't handle gold dust without some slippin' away. You've seed colar on every bar you drunk at, on every table yer played at, and in ther cracks of every saloon floor you walked on. What's more you've seed a tipsey miner time and agin throw away a bag of dust with a whoop, etcetra, just to make out to ther boys that he had more'n he could carry with comfort. That's all waste—no account, goin' on all ther time and you've never speculated where it all went to. Now when I come out from California ther boys was cleanin' up underneath the oid saloons and if facts are as represented, Dick, ther mice in your church come pretty near rollin' in wealth. Leastways that's what happened in California."

"Well yer could have put a sack of meal into ther preacher's mouth.

"Calate we'll go prospectin' down to ther meetin' house," says he.

"Calate it'll be a bonanza," says Kedham, grippin' ther oid man's hand.

"Next mornin' ther congregation found ther preacher breakin' ther Sabbath. Him, me and Kedham had ther floor ripped up, pews and sich piled out ther door and a big heap of dirt scraped together what was full of color. Created quite a sensation, that bonanza. Set everybody to prospectin' fer oid saloons you can bet.

"Red Harvey? Oh, I paid him. He swore ther preacher had the whole thing fattening up his sleeve. So did all Wisdom. And as he seed how conducive ther atmosphere was to tar and feathering, and knowin' his constitution couldn't prosper under ther public eye of Spruce City, Red Harvey pulled out about that time fer other parts."

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Crime vs. Evidence.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HUBERT EDWARDS.

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MY first client was a remarkable man, one who for fertility of expedient and felicity in execution is "seldom equalled and never excelled" as the patent medicine circulars say. It is my conviction that if he had been at hand to outline the ground of defense, and had persuaded Judas Iscariot to stand a trial by jury, that individual of unsavory memory would stand before the public today without a blemish on his character.

I first met my client where I have met many since, in the county jail where he was detained on a charge of murder in the first degree. Why he chose me, the youngest member of the bar, as his counsel, I could not imagine, and it is to this day a question that I have not fully answered to my own satisfaction. He sent for me to come to the jail, and accompanying his message was a retainer that meant a barrier against the wolf for a long time in those days of my life, so I pocketed any scruples I might have against defending the perpetrator of as cold-blooded a murder as ever was committed along with the retainer, and went down to the jail to advise the prisoner. To advise—yes, that's what I went for, but I didn't do it.

The murder which was the cause of my client's (how proudly I said those words over to myself—"my client") incarceration was appar-

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ently as cold-blooded and premeditated as ever murder was.

There had been bad blood between the two men for a long time. The original cause had probably been forgotten by both, but whenever they met there had been angry looks and an occasional word that was not learned at Sunday school, but no one thought the final result would be what it was.

No one had seen the encounter, so there was no direct evidence. A shot had been heard in the public square, and people running towards the sound had found Walter Carleton lying dead, with a bullet hole in his head, the blood clotting in his hair and a little trickle on the ground. They also saw the prisoner riding as fast as his horse could carry him towards his home, and the postmaster, who was one of the early arrivals, picked up a revolver still warm, with the letters "M. C." engraved on the silver stock.

A coroner's inquest was of course held on the remains. A doctor was called who said death was due to cerebral hemorrhage as the immediate cause, and the remote cause an injury by some instrument or missile violently introduced into the cranial cavity. It might be and from the circumstances he would say it probably was a revolver ball.

No autopsy appeared necessary; the cause of death was apparent, and the doctor's statement was sufficient to establish the cause of death.

Other witnesses testified to seeing the prisoner and that he was the only person in sight when they arrived on the scene. The postmaster produced the revolver which he identified as having been the property of my client, and others also testified to the identity of the weapon—a thirty-eight calibre six-shooter—as the property of Marion Chamberlain, whose initials were engraved on the stock.

The coroner's jury spent little time in reaching a conclusion, which was that the deceased came to his death by a revolver bullet shot from a weapon in the hands of Marion Chamberlain, and further declared that Chamberlain was guilty of the death of Walter Carleton, all in due form, of course.

The next thing in the usual course was to capture Chamberlain, and in the mean time the last rites were conducted and Carleton was laid away in the family plot in the cemetery to await the call which will eventually come to all of us, however we have lived and whatever may have been the cause of our dissolution.

Chamberlain, however, seemed to have disappeared. No one had seen him go out of town. It was as if the earth had opened and swallowed him. No trace in any way until the morning after the funeral when he was seen in the center of the public square again, disheveled, dirty and bedraggled as if he had been lying in the woods for a month.

His arrest took place immediately, and then it was sent for me.

I found Marion Chamberlain in jail and alone, as I expected. He was a man of about thirty years, tall, perfectly set up, and with a face indicating a high degree of natural refinement and culture. The thin upper lip and long mustache indicated long descent in what has been aptly described as the "Brahmin class of New England", and the piercing black eyes betokened a sharpened inspection of his fellow-men.

Little time was spent in conventional introduction and compliment. The prisoner made some apology for his appearance by saying he had been very busily engaged during the time which had elapsed since the "accident", and further that he had not at present his entire wardrobe at command.

"Now what I want an attorney for," he said, suddenly, "is not to give me any advice nor any of the wise saws that pass current among the pettifoggers who congregate about the court house. What I want is a man to attend to the detail work and simply present the facts to the jury as they will appear—to present them in legal form—the facts will speak for themselves. I am not going to get a lot of perjured testifiers to go on the stand and get all tangled and confused under cross-examination.

"I tell you I didn't kill Carleton. The evidence will come at the proper time. Who did kill him is nothing to me nor to you. We're not the prosecuting attorney. It's his job to find the man who did it. It's my job to tell you where to find the evidence of my innocence, which I will do at the proper time, and your part is to do what you are paid for and nothing more."

We then parted with the understanding that it would not be necessary for us to have another consultation until the day before his trial began.

Here was a situation for a "briefless barrister." I had a client. I had money to live on until the time of the trial even if I secured no other business. I had the promise of abundant evidence, and further that I was not expected to degrade myself and prostitute my calling to the subornation of perjury, but beyond these things I had nothing. I had absolutely no case. I revolved the matter in my mind in every conceivable position. There could be no doubt of the fact of the killing. I couldn't see for my life how the defence could introduce a scintilla of evidence in controversy of what had been adduced before the coroner's jury.

Even Old Weller's suggestion "Wy warn't they a libel proved Samivel?" was futile. My client was there in *propria persona* and his gun still hot and smoking was almost as positive evidence as the testimony of a sight-witness.

Once I went to the jail to see if I could get a suggestion of what was to be done. I was met very cordially by my client who was smoking a fragrant cigar. He offered me one, and pointed suggestively to a bottle of cognac which he had, contrary to all rules and precedents, procured for his own delectation.

Preliminaries over, I made a start at the object of my visit but was cut short with the remark: "I didn't employ you to advise or to do any thinking. When the time comes to act it's up to you to get a gait and do some hustling of the lightning quality. Until that date you just put in your time drawing wills for rich widows and attending Sunday school picnics. When the time comes to press the button you'll find that the authorities will do the rest."

We chatted a few minutes on indifferent subjects, the prisoner proving a most charming conversationalist and entertainer. He would have shone in society anywhere, and even the dingy walls of the jail seemed to lose a portion of their gloom under the influence of his epigrammatic brilliancy. From this time, however, I did not again venture to approach him, but at his suggestion devoted my time and energy to other cases, which seemed to come in rapidly when it became known that I was to defend Chamberlain.

At last the day came when the trial was to

begin. I will confess to a considerable degree of nervousness, which I still think was not an unreasonable result of the position in which I was placed. The prisoner sat in the dock and I stood just outside as the jury was impanelled. I asked him about challenging for cause or peremptorily, but he whispered, "never mind, they look a pretty intelligent lot all around and that's all we want."

Some of the jurymen said they had heard of the case and had formed some opinion, but that they could form an intelligent opinion from the evidence and could reach a just verdict. My memory is that the first twelve men called formed the jury. No one was excused or challenged by either the government or by the defense.

The prisoner had of course been arraigned previously and the plea "Not Guilty" entered, and now we waited the reading of the bill of indictment and the trial began. The prosecuting attorney was a young man who had a reputation to make and felt it incumbent on him to make a very long and rhetorical opening to the jury, so it was the hour of the noon recess before the first witness was called.

At this point my strange client seemed for the first time to take an interest in the proceedings. As the jury passed out of the court room to luncheon Chamberlain said: "Mr. Edwards, I have ordered two luncheons sent up here from the hotel and I'd like just another half-hour of your time before the trial goes any further."

I acceded to his request and as we ate our luncheon he inquired when the doctor would probably be put on the stand. I replied probably in about an hour or two after the court came in.

Said he: "On cross examination ask if an autopsy was held, and if not why not. Then move the court that the body be disinterred and a thorough examination had and *insist upon that motion*. Have the court order the exhumation of Carleton and if it can be done soon enough we shall be ready to put in a defense, if one is needed by the time the state finishes its case."

What now? Was my client going to call on me to prove that his victim died of cholera infantum? or was the alibi to be proven after all? I didn't know.

When the proper point was reached I inquired about the autopsy and the reply being that none had been had, I made some caustic remarks about dereliction of duty, and moved the court for an order of exhumation.

To this there was some demur as I expected there would be, but I finally carried my point, and the trial proceeded.

The pistol, of course, was introduced and identified, its condition when picked up and the fact of the presence of the prisoner so near the scene of the murder was proven beyond a peradventure. Without any definite object other than to gain time I unnecessarily prolonged the cross examination of witnesses to the discomfort of the prosecutor and to the weariness of the court, so that the time for adjournment arrived before the state had completed its case.

I went to my hotel with a sense of hopelessness, relieved in a measure by the unconcern of the prisoner, who seemed buoyed by a hope that puzzled me beyond measure. What was to be gained by the exhumation of the body? My client did not deign to enlighten me but still preserved his sphinx-like silence.

The autopsy would consume a large part of the night and no one would know what it developed until the coroner and doctors came into court the next morning, and then the mystery would be solved, but it was a long, weary, restless night for me.

When court came in in the morning, being instructed by my client I said I would like to ask a few more questions by way of cross-examining the doctor who testified to the cause of death of Carleton.

He returned to the stand and I asked if he had made a further examination since he was on the stand yesterday. He replied that he had assisted in making an autopsy during the night.

My next question was what the autopsy revealed and he said a bullet was found in the brain of the deceased, and the bullet was produced.

A light now shone into my soul. I saw the whole theory of defense in a flash.

"What is the calibre of this bullet found in the brain of the deceased?" I inquired.

"I should say forty-four," he replied, "although I am not a thoroughly qualified expert on guns."

"See if it will fit Chamberlain's revolver," I said handing him the weapon.

"It will not. It is too large," he replied after making an unsuccessful attempt.

The prosecuting attorney here objected to evidence of this kind from one who knew little or nothing of fire arms, and was sustained by the court.

He then took the bullet which I insisted

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should be introduced in evidence and properly marked for identification, and tried to push it into the barrel, but had to admit that it was impossible. Here was a quandary for the state. The case depended largely on the identification of Chamberlain's pistol and now it seemed to militate against the theory that it was the cause of Carleton's death.

After consulting with the coroner, and a few words with His Honor, the prosecutor announced that he would enter a *nolito prosequi* but I insisted on a verdict of acquittal which was ordered by the court, and the clerk announced that "If there is no other charge against the prisoner, Marion Chamberlain be discharged from custody."

"Come on, old man let's go across and celebrate the happy event over a large bottle," said my client, and we left the court house together, but with an ever increasing feeling on my part that I had in some way been instrumental in freeing a man whose life was forfeit. It was a feeling I could not shake off, but I so far mastered it as to go with Chamberlain to the cafe where he ordered what he called "a full portion of the fatted calf."

As our little feast was drawing to a close, I ventured the question: "Chamberlain, how did you do it?"

"Well," he said, "now that it's all over, I may as well tell you and then you'll know what to do next time. You know they didn't get me until the day after the funeral, and that I was a pretty dirty, seedy-looking customer."

"Well, the night after they buried Carleton I went down and resurrected him and probed for the bullet which I succeeded in extracting. Then I took a forty-four cartridge and took out about all the powder so not to have the bullet go too far, and fired that into the same hole, firing through a piece of chamomile-skin so not to leave powder marks on the skin and then buried him again. A forty-four bullet won't go into a thirty-eight gun the best you can do, and as I suggested, the state furnished all the evidence required," and handing me an envelope directed to myself with the further words "Your fee," he passed through the front door and was lost to sight in the crowd on the street.

The Madness of Gabriel Juneau.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY "CHESTER LIVINGSTONE."

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GABRIEL Juneau was mad—as you will readily agree when you read that which I have to write—or he would never have done this thing. Something unparalleled in the history of any of the Louisiana parishes, in one of which Gabriel

Juneau lived. It happened a long time ago, fifty years, or more, and some people have forgotten it, or but remember it to think of some time late at night, with a shudder. But I know every bit of it just as it happened, for you see I was a lad then, and Gabriel and I often took a drink together, and had a turn at cards. I trust no one will censure me for telling this story of the madness of Gabriel Juneau, for it is not done with malice, and my heart has sent up many a petition that my poor friend's soul might find sweet rest. He was always hot-headed, and his mother was a pure-blooded Castilian, and these people of the south never yoke passion and reason together, from the fact that they will not abide in peace. I have seen the veins on Gabriel's forehead when they looked like a piece of small rope knotted, and his eyes were always bright, whether in calm or anger. His temperament was a little too intense for the uncertain road of love, and it had fared better with him had he never tried to take it. But it is very easy to give advice when the subject is past remedy, so, begging you to be as lenient as may be in your judgment of one no longer living, I shall tell my story without further ado.

Gabriel Juneau was a Creole, his descent being an admixture of French and Spanish. His mother died while he was a suckling; old

Gaspar Juneau, his father, passed away one night surrounded by a legion of hydra-headed monstrosities, which his love of strong drink had summoned about him, and Gabriel was left in possession of as fine a cotton plantation as ever whitened a parish. The lad was a moderate drinker himself, for, as I have said, he and I often touched cups after darkness in the tavern at St. Marie. But after the father's unfortunate end the son was more wary of wine, and drank but little, or not at all. So it cannot be said that intemperance led to the misfortune which now came speedily upon him.

Juneau was a thrifty man, a natural husbandman and a kind master, considering his hot blood, which was seldom, I think, below the boiling point. He prospered, and was respected throughout the parish. Adjoining the Juneau plantation was that of Major Bonnie, a southern gentleman of high repute. I think the title he bore was an honorary one, for he had not been living long enough to have seen service in the Revolution, and the Mexican war had not then broken out. But he wore the title gracefully, and it seemed well bestowed. Major Bonnie's family consisted of himself and one daughter, Clarice—and now you have the key to all the trouble. But for fear the lock which holds this story has become rusty from age, I shall continue, and tell you word for word everything as it happened.

Major Bonnie's lands bordered the Mississippi river, and directly across the stream lay

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the plantation of George Brownell, as handsome a six-foot planter as ever lit a pipe. And now you have all the persons connected with this story. It must not be supposed that all of these people had lived here since the beginning. I was born and raised where I still abide. Then old Gaspar Juneau came when I was a little boy. Brownell came from the lower Mississippi, and located across the river ten years later, and only six months before this thing happened which I am going to tell, Major Bonnie came to our parish, bought an undesirable plantation, which by chance adjoined that of Gabriel Juneau, and brought with him his daughter, Clarice.

It always was a strange thing to me why Gabriel should have loved her. She was beautiful but proud and cold. The beauty of an iceberg, which one admires, but does not care to approach. But he loved her, for all that I cannot make it out, and she liked him well enough, too, for he was a manly fellow, though rather slender in build, until she met Brownell. Then the current of her affection—or, rather, admiration, for that was all it was then—changed, and flowed toward the sturdy planter from across the river. Gabriel and I were like brothers, and I shall never forget the first night he went to this girl's home and found Brownell there.

I was sitting on my piazza that evening, smoking a pipe, when suddenly such a clattering broke upon my ears that I rose to my feet, no little concerned as to the cause. But directly I made out a horse and rider speeding up the road in the moonlight at a breakneck pace. They stopped at the gate, and as the man flung himself from the saddle I recognized Gabriel, although the distance was fifty or sixty yards. He dropped his bridle reins over a fence post and came rapidly up the drive, switching at his riding boots viciously, and crunching the gravel under his spurred heel. I knew that something had agitated him to an unusual degree, so I started down the steps to meet him. He took off his hat when within a few feet of me, and his dark skin had turned a bluish-gray, while his eyes shone like cat's. I had never seen him like this. He did not see the hand I held out to him, but stopped before me and let out a string of oaths such as I had never heard.

"Hush, Gabriel," I said quietly, putting my hand on his shoulder, "mother might hear you."

He thrust his arm in mine without a word, and drew me down to the gate. Then he told me where he had been and what he had seen. The memory of his fierce and uncontrollable anger is with me as I write, for it made an imprint upon my mind which will never leave it. He had seen Brownell talking to Clarice through the library window and then such a fit of jealousy had come upon him that he was afraid to enter, but had mounted his horse again and ridden to me. I tried to calm him, but nothing which I could say or do could allay in the least his wild, jealous rage. And the next thing I knew he was in the saddle again, and was riding down the road as if pursued by devils. I had grave fears as to what his intentions might be, but judged it best not to follow him. The next morning I learned that he had come home with his horse all a-tremble and reeking with sweat, and had spent the night pacing his room. And that night marked the beginning of the end.

Gabriel Juneau became completely metamorphosed. He neglected his estate, he became cross and moody, and then of a sudden fell to drinking heavily. Often would I hear him clatter by my home in the dead of night, always riding like a hurricane. I foresaw something dreadful if this kept up, so one night I went to see him. His appearance alarmed me, for his frame was gaunt and bent, his cheeks were great hollows in his face and his eyes had a wild glare. He wouldn't listen to me, but would shift the subject whenever I touched upon his affection for Clarice Bonnie. I tried time and again to remonstrate with him, for my tender feeling for the poor lad was genuine, until he told me, almost roughly, that if I had come to talk on that subject I had better leave him, as his mind was made up and no one could change it. This statement was rather mystifying, but then I could see plainly that he wasn't himself so I left him reluctantly, begging him to come to see me soon. He came one night not long after, and my hand shakes now when I think of it—may the Mother of Heaven have mercy on him!

About a week after this it became generally known throughout the parish that George Brownell and Clarice Bonnie were soon to become man and wife. A chill swept over me when the news was brought to me, and all sorts of unformed fears rose up in my heart. I feared that this would be the last straw for the strained mind of my poor friend, for his peculiar actions were already beginning to excite comment. I had not seen him for a fortnight, and things moved along quietly enough until a week before the wedding. Then Gabriel's head black man came over to me one morning with the news that his master had locked himself up in the house, after having given stringent orders that he was not to be disturbed. I advised the fellow to leave his master alone and obey orders, but told him furthermore that I would ride over the next day and see what I could do with him. I went, but could not gain admittance to the house. Gabriel talked to me from behind a closed door, and told me that he would positively see no one until a week had gone; that he was master of that plantation, and would do as he pleased. So there was nothing for me to do but go back home with a heavy heart. The rest of the week passed uneventfully; preparations for the wedding went forward speedily, and Gabriel Juneau never showed his face. The good people around who knew of his hopeless passion pitied him, and said that grief and shame had caused him to seek seclusion. I did not say anything for my mind was not at rest.

I was to be a guest at Major Bonnie's home the night of the wedding, but as I was always rather methodical in my movements, it was a trifle late when I mounted my horse and started down the driveway towards the road. And then a sound greeted my ears which actually caused me to shiver and turn cold all over, although it was a moonlight, summer night. First a wild, mirthless laugh was borne to me on the breeze, immediately followed by the noise of a horse's rapidly galloping feet. It was the wedding night of Clarice Bonnie, and Gabriel Juneau was abroad once more. At the gate opening onto the pike I stopped, and waited. Directly I saw them thundering up the road, horse and rider flitting through moonlight and shadow. It was indeed Gabriel. He drew his horse up in front of me, and with such suddenness that the beast's hoofs sent a shower of small stones rattling against the gate.

"Ha! friend Auguste!" he shouted, waving his hand in the air, joyously. "You invited me to come to see you, and I am here! But I cannot tarry, for this is my wedding night, and soon my bride's soft arms shall rock me to sleep, and they shall choke the life out of George Brownell and Clarice Bonnie! Come and see! Come and see!" Then with a crazy laugh ending in a shout, he turned his horse's head and started back towards the Bonnie homestead.

I followed, for his mind was gone I knew, but I did not know what his wild words portended. It was a hard race, but I overtook him before two miles were covered, and though I shouted questions into his ear as we sped along, his only answer was a maniac's laughter. Presently we came to where the road forked, one branch leading to the Bonnie plantation, and the other going on towards the river. Here he drew up, and as I reined in also, he urged his horse close to mine and whispered:

"Speed on to the wedding, but don't tell them! I go to summon the bride! Together we shall all float to eternity!"

Then he was gone, his horse headed for Mississippi.

I sat stunned for a moment, then gradually the comprehension of his awful plot came to me. There had been a great deal of rain the past two weeks, the river was high, and I knew that the levee had been strengthened at several weak points that very day with sacks of dirt. This madman was going to make a break in the levee, and let that angry tide pour through the valley where Major Bonnie's home stood!

It was too late to stop him, for he had left me with the speed of lightning. With a groan I dug my spurs into my horse's flanks, and rode to give the alarm. The house was brilliantly lighted when I came in sight of it, and horses and carriages were scattered about the grounds. Through them all I dashed, right up to the front door, and flinging my reins to a frightened negro, I burst into the parlor, and in the midst of the marriage service shouted these words:

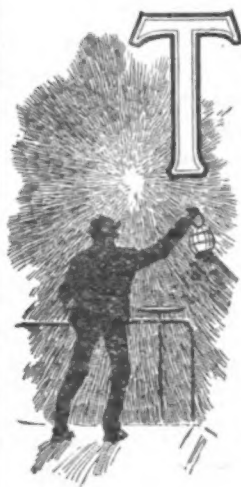
"Fly! Fly quickly! Gabriel Juneau is mad, and has broken the levee! Fly to high ground, in God's name!"

Then was such a turmoil as I have never since seen, though my head is white as I write this. Brownell seized his swooning bride with an oath choked in his throat, and bore her bodily from the house. Then followed a mad flight from the oncoming water; we could hear its dull roar drawing nearer as we sped up the road to safety. Not one was overtaken by the flood, but my poor friend alone was lulled to rest in the arms of the bride he had summoned.

The Tramp Hero of the B. S. & W.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BURTON MCPHAIL.

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RAMPS had annoyed the train-crews on the B. S. & W. road from the opening of the service. They usually rode under the coaches, making themselves as comfortable as possible between the trucks and the floor of the car, though now and then one rode within the car, hoping in some manner to evade paying his fare, and there is little doubt but that they would have ridden on the cowcatcher, could they have imagined such a thing as not being detected.

The seven o'clock accommodation train pulled out of Hampton on time the night of March 7, 1894. It had been raining all day and there was a slippery rail ahead, and though it had stopped raining, a heavy fog made it impossible to see anything a hundred feet away, so that taken all in all it was an unpleasant night to be on the irons.

The train had just left Hampton behind when the conductor passed through the half dozen coaches, marching a wretched-looking specimen of humanity to the smoking-car in the rear.

"Caught him on the front platform of the baggage-car, boys," he said, speaking to two of the train-crew; "just keep a sharp eye on him until we reach Lancaster and I'll hand him over to the police."

"Stealing a ride, eh?" he continued, shaking the tramp until the latter's teeth chattered; "did you think we run these trains for the benefit of fellows of your stamp?"

"I—I was just goin' home, boss," said the tramp, pulling himself together, "I thought—"

"Well, you're going home now, all right," interrupted the conductor, "it will seem real homelike down to the county-house."

The brakemen and passengers roared with merriment. The tramp buried himself in his ragged overcoat.

Meanwhile, the train was making slow progress up the long grade leading to Hamilton. Five, ten, fifteen minutes were lost, and as the train started down the grade that ended at the junction, where the accommodation left the main line, the engineer let the engine out, well aware that the Lightning Express, seven-thirty out of Hampton, was fast gaining on them, and anxious to get out of the way of the express he urged his engine to the limit.

From time to time a blunderer crops up from among the employees of every railroad. On the seventh of March he turned up at the junction; neglected to turn the switch, and before the engineer could check his train he was pounding over the frogs, still on the main line with ten chances to one in favor of having his train telescoped. Then came the warning whistle of the Lightning Express, and knowing that there was not an instant to be lost, he

threw open the throttle and started at express speed down the main line, hoping to win in the long race that he knew was before him.

As the train thundered over the switch, the truth dawned on the conductor and brakemen. They knew that the engineer of the express would pay no heed to the red-light signals, now that the junction was passed, as that train had the right of way. They realized that their train would have to contend with a superior engine, but at the same time, their engine was drawing less than half the number of coaches that the express was laboring under, and it was a much mooted question which would win.

Within the cab of the engine a grim battle was being waged, and the manner in which the fireman shovelled coal into the fire-box would have opened the eyes of many a fireman. Several times the engineer scrawled a message intended for the agent at some station through which they passed, and trying it about a lump of coal, hurled it at the windows of the ticket-office, but each time it missed the mark, and so the train plunged through the fog, the express gradually cutting down the interval that separated the two trains.

"There is just one thing to be done," said the conductor, the roar of the express sounding unpleasantly close at hand, "get the passengers out of this car and cut it loose from the rest of the train. One of us must stay aboard and manage the brake, and it means death."

The tramp had been listening and understood something of the horror of the situation, and while the men were settling the question in their own minds which should remain, he acted. "Get into the next car, all of you, and give me a lantern," he said, springing to his feet, "I might as well die tonight as any time; cut the car loose and be lively about it, too; I'll attend to the rest."

Thirty seconds later the car was empty and the conductor was drawing the coupling-pin. As he regained his feet and for an instant held the air-brake connections, he shook hands with the tramp.

"Good-bye, old man," he shouted above the roar of the train, "you're a hero."

On the rear platform the tramp was clutching the brake, ready to ease up the instant the headlight of the express showed itself. He could hear it coming and in less than a minute he made out a luminous spot in the thick bank of fog that hung about the car. For an instant the glow increased and then, like some cyclopean monster, the great mogul engine of the express shot out of the fog, bearing down on the flying car with terrible swiftness. Then the engineer of the express saw the lantern which the tramp was frantically waving, but though he reversed his engine and applied the brakes the entire length of the train, it skidded over the slippery rails until it ploughed its way half through the car.

Somehow the heavy engine managed to keep the irons, and when it finally stopped, the wrecked car was within a hundred feet of Elderton Station.

Buried deep under the splintered timbers of the car, they found the tramp, no, not the tramp, but the hero, and tenderly they bore his crushed form into the station.

"I wasn't hurtin' nobody out there behind the engine," said the poor fellow, looking up into the faces of those that were bending over him, "just thought I'd go home and see the folks; ain't seen 'em for close onto ten years."

Meanwhile the accommodation train had come to a stop two miles down the road, and shortly the conductor reached the scene of the wreck.

"Have you found out who this man is, or where he belongs?" he asked looking down at the crushed form.

"Said something about Parker River," said a physician who chanced to be aboard the express, "then he muttered some such name as Phillips or Phelps; didn't quite catch it."

"Man saved my train and the Lightning Express. He is dying; has people at Parker River; Phillips or Phelps, the name. May live a few hours; what shall we do with him?"

The above dispatch was received by the superintendent of the road five minutes after the return of the conductor, and three minutes later the following telegram was received by the conductor:

"Special on the way. See that you reach Parker River by midnight."

It does not take an engineer very long to cover twenty miles when he is racing with death and has word from the dispatcher that he has a clear rail ahead. He may be cautious, perhaps nervous, when there is a train-load of passengers behind the tender and there is a doubt about the road, but give him an opportunity to let out his engine, the dispatcher backing him with imperative orders to make his best time, and he will make the rails sing.

In precisely twenty minutes from the time that the engineer of the Special received his orders, he brought his engine and solitary car to a stop before the Elderton Station. There was a stop of three minutes, during which the ragged hero was tenderly brought aboard, and as the Special pulled out of the station it carried the physician and the conductor who had wired the facts to the superintendent.

There were two hundred and ten miles to be made in the next three hours and twenty minutes, if the superintendent's orders were carried out, a little better than a mile a minute; and the manner in which the engineer and fireman annihilated distance the first half hour, showed that they intended to carry out the order to the letter. At ten o'clock the Special was whirling through Royalston eighty-seven miles away; at eleven o'clock it thundered over the crossing at Rochester, one hundred and forty-eight miles away; and just as the town clock at Parker River was striking for midnight, the Special was pounding over the switches at Parker River Station.

The telegram, however, had beaten the Special by more than three hours, and there was a carriage on hand ready to complete the long journey.

"Phillips, that's right," said the driver, springing into the carriage, "their place is two miles from here. Have been over there and told them Tom was coming home; told them they'd better get a bed ready, he had met with an accident."

There was an aged man standing at the gate when the farmhouse was reached, joined an instant later by a tottering old woman.

"It's goin' on eleven year since he left here," said the old man, "and we ain't heard much of him since, but I told wife he'd come back sometime, though I didn't reckon on just this."

"Tom, can't you speak to your poor mother?" said the wife, following the doctor and conductor as they bore the body into the house.

"Tom, just a word!"

"He is going fast," said the physician, as they laid him on the bed in the front chamber,

Cures Drunkards Secretly

Free Package of the Only Successful Cure Known for Drunkenness Sent to All Who Send Name and Address.

It Can be Put Secretly into Food or Coffee and Quickly Cures the Drink Habit.

Few men become drunkards from choice or inclination—all welcome release from the awful habit. Golden Specific will cure the worst habitual drunkard. This wonderful remedy can be administered by wife or daughter, in food, tea, coffee or milk, without causing the slightest



MR. and MRS. HARRY BURNSIDE.

suspicion. Its cure is sure, without harmful results to the system. Many a home is now happy by the use of Golden Specific. "My husband got into a habit of taking a drink with the boys on his way home," says Mrs. Harry Burnside. "After awhile he came home drunk frequently. He soon lost his position and I had to make a living for both of us and the little children. At times he tried to sober up, but the habit was too strong for him and then he would drink harder than ever. I heard of Golden Specific and sent for a free package. The treatment cured him. I put it in his coffee and he never knew it at all. He regained his old position and now we are happy in our little home again. I hope you will send Golden Specific to every woman that has suffered as I have, and save her loved ones from the drunkard's grave."

Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 2304 Glenn Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, and he will mail you a free package of Golden Specific in a plain wrapper, accompanied by full directions how to use it. Enough of the remedy is sent in each free package to give you an opportunity to witness its marvelous effect on those who are slaves to drink.

Do not delay. You cannot tell what may happen to the man who drinks, and you would never forgive yourself for waiting.

"Just come close, he may say something before he goes."

Suddenly the dying man's eyes opened, and for an instant he looked from one to another as though unable to understand his surroundings. Then his eyes rested on his mother's face.

"I—I—come—home—to—to—see you—mother."

"He is dead," said the doctor, placing his hand over the heart that had just ceased to beat.

"Your son was a hero, if there ever was one," said the conductor. "Two hundred miles down the road he gave his life for two train-loads of passengers. He is an honor to you."

WANTED Young men to learn telegraphy. F. Whiteman, Chatham, N. Y.

This ELEGANT Watch \$3.25

Before you buy a watch out this out and send us your name and address, and we will send you by express for free a beautiful watch. **W. H. M. D. CHAIN C. O. D. \$3.75** Double hunting case beautifully engraved, with wind and stem set, fitted with richly jeweled movement and guaranteed a correct timekeeper; with long Gold plated chain for Ladies or vest chain for Gents. If you consider it equal to any \$35.00 Gold FILLED WATCH, we will warrant 20 YEARS pay the express sent \$3.75 and it is yours. Our 20 year guarantee sent with each watch. Mention "You want Gents' or Ladies' size." Address **H. FARRER & CO., 554, 556 Quincy St. CHICAGO.**

ALL-WOOL SUIT \$5.95

MAN'S SUIT made from rich Black All-Wool Casimere, woven by America's best woolen mill from fine picked wool yarn, dyed by the new process and can not fade. Famous for its perfect weave and beautiful finish.

EXPERT SUIT TAILORS will make the sack style to fit perfect, line it with the farmer's satin and sew it with pure silk and linen thread. Guaranteed equal in quality and looks to others' \$10.00 suits.

SAMPLES FREE Write to us, mentioning this paper, and we will send free a sample of the fine black casimere and our book of 50 cloth samples of made-to-order Suits and Overcoats at astonishingly low prices; or send \$1.00 deposit, giving height, weight, chest, waist and crotch measure, and we will send the suit C. O. D. subject to examination, you to pay the balance, \$4.95, and express charges if the suit fits perfectly; otherwise pay nothing and we will refund your \$1.00.

JOHN M. SMYTH CO., 150-166 and 287-289 W. Madison St., Chicago.

COIN MONEY.

It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but it Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

The Electro Polishing Cloth. A wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, order Suits and Overcoats at astonishingly low prices; or send \$1.00 deposit, giving height, weight, chest, waist and crotch measure, and we will send the suit C. O. D. subject to examination, you to pay the balance, \$4.95, and express charges if the suit fits perfectly; otherwise pay nothing and we will refund your \$1.00.

Will Not Injure the Most Delicate Surface. It does not scratch! It works Wonders! and a child can use it! Will clean and polish just as well when black as when new. No matter how soiled the "cloths" may become, the black will not rub off and soil the hands. Can be used until entirely worn out. A moist portion will clean and dry portion polish until the cloth is worn threadbare. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The Greatest Invention of the Century.

A Bargain Offer to All. We want 50,000 agents to sell these cloths at fairs, campaign meetings, on the street, from house to house, everywhere. You can make \$100 a month profit, young and old, both sexes. Sells like greased lightning. One sample cloth full size, sent free to anyone who will send only 10 cents for agent's prices. The greatest introduction offer ever made; we will return money if not perfectly satisfied.

LANE & CO., BOX 551, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The play is the thing in these modern days, and the playwright finds a larger public than the preacher or the author. Henry Arthur Jones is one of the most successful of modern playwrights. His daring plays have brought him literary, artistic and financial success. This middle-aged Englishman is a quiet blue eyed unobtrusive individual whose appearance seems radically opposed to the aggressive spirit he shows in his work. Among the plays that have won success on both sides the Atlantic are: Mrs. Dane's Defense, Saints and Sinners, The Case of Rebellious Susan and The Manoeuvres of Jane. Mr. Jones has been accused of attempting to educate the public with his plays. He boldly says there is but one thing worth representing in plays and that is the heart, the soul, the passions, the emotions of men. This his plays do and this it is that has awakened the wrath of the critics. Jones was born in a little village near London and after a brief schooling was forced to commence the struggle of life when he was but thirteen years of age. For five years he fretted under the uncongenial tasks of commercial life. Then a brief visit to a London theater opened a new world to the country lad. From that magic moment, the world of imagination spread before him. For nine years longer he was forced to continue the struggle for bread in the work that daily grew more uncongenial. During the time he wrote a novel that was rejected. The substance of the story is in the popular play of the Silver King. In 1878 his first play was acted in London. It had only scant recognition but his next play was a great success and Henry Arthur Jones had "arrived." Wealth and fame have come to the man who believes that the theater may be made the most powerful of educational factors. He said in a recent interview, "Religion, politics, science, education, philosophy are likely to be dealt with on the English stage during the next generation." This is his most earnest thought concerning the future of the stage. It follows that those who believe the stage is merely an amusement or diversion are not taken with Jones' plays. His constituency is the thoughtful cultured portion of the English speaking public. What effect the craze for the dramatization of popular novels will have upon the vogue of playwrights remains to be seen.

A new animal unknown to scientists has been discovered in Central Africa. This strange beast has been named the Okapi. It is the size of a large stag. It has two hoofs like the giraffe. The Okapi has a curiously striped skin something like a zebra, in fact the hind quarters and legs seem like those of the horse or zebra. Its brilliant coloring shading from deep black to cream makes its skin much sought by the natives. The name is the one used by the tribes of Central Africa. Sir Harry Johnson made an unsuccessful expedition into the Congo forests after the animal. The skin and skull of a newly captured Okapi were afterwards sent to him by some Belgian officers who procured the animal from the natives. It is not improbable that the dense forests of the Congo may contain other animals unknown to civilization.

A prominent Hawaiian newspaper makes a bitter review of the three years of American rule in that island and declares that President Dole is responsible for the failure to establish American ideas. It says of him that born under a monarchy, holding office under that monarchy he rebelled against it, not for the purpose of establishing liberty but for the benefit of an oligarchy. This is a specimen of the bitter abuse and criticism that has surrounded Sanford B. Dole ever since he assumed the Direction of the government of Hawaii in 1893. He was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at the time of the overthrow of the monarchy and became president of the provisional government then created. The native population of Hawaii have always been bitter

against Dole and have also opposed annexation. President Dole was always anxious to have the turbulent island republic declared a part of the United States, and during the seven years from 1893 to 1900, he bent all his energies to that end. He is no tyro in political matters and was able to defeat several schemes for the overthrow of the government that he headed. When the territory was finally annexed, he was appointed as governor. The protests and abuse that had followed him for seven years were intensified by his success and many believe that he would be glad to retire from the position were it not that his enemies might feel that he retreated under fire. President Dole is an old man but there seems no lessening of the fire and energy that has made him the most prominent figure in Hawaii for many years.



Henry Merwin Shradly is a young man of twenty-eight, who has won distinction as a sculptor. The great figures of the moose and the buffalo at the Pan-American exhibition mark his first recognition by artists as one of them. Mr. Shradly is the son of the famous New York physician, and the brother-in-law of Edwin Gould. His family wished him to study medicine, but he disliked the idea and after a course at Columbia he studied law. A severe illness prevented him from immediate practice of his profession and he became the manager of a match factory for his millionaire brother-in-law. He had all his life had a desire to paint but he received no encouragement and never had an hour's instruction in art in his life. He used the few leisure hours left from business and his holidays in studying painting. His taste turned towards animals and he spent much time in the Zoological Park of New York studying the animals. It was here that he found his models for the moose and the buffalo. He took some of his sketches to a famous New York artist who at once assured him that he would soon make art his profession. His wife sent his painting of their pet dog to the Academy of Design. It was accepted for exhibition and also sold. A painting of pet kittens was also accepted. His sketches for this had been made on bits of paper carried in his pocket while on the way to business. He would stop outside the windows of dealers in cats and sketch the kittens shown. He found it very difficult to paint in the leisure time at his disposal as the artificial light spoiled the coloring. For this reason he attempted sculpture. His first success was a battery going into action. The gun carriage and harness were copied in the Seventh Regiment Armory, while the horses were modeled from his own saddle horse. This was cast in Russian bronze but in small molds. It was this work that caused him to be asked to send models of heroic size to Buffalo. To do this work he rose at half past five in the morning and went to the New Jersey studio of a well-known sculptor. Mr. Shradly's success is a wonderful illustration of the power of genius. With no time and no instructions, his talent forced him to surmount obstacles and become known not as a business man but as an artist. Mr. Shradly has been invited to exhibit at the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. His pieces have been war pieces, among them being one called "Saving the Colors" and the "Empty Saddle". There are some practical lessons to be learned from Mr. Shradly's success.

Dr. Daniel Coit Gilman is about to organize the great educational work at Washington that will place the stores of government material in science, art and literature at the disposal of the colleges of the United States. The great work will fulfill the purposes of the university that Washington planned. The work promises a larger field of usefulness than the one held so long and so ably by Dr. Gilman. He ranks as one of the foremost educators of the nation while his profound scholarship and executive ability are recognized the world over. Dr. Gilman is a graduate of Yale in the class of '52.



For four years after graduation he pursued his studies at home and abroad. In 1856 he became secretary of the Yale Scientific while the needs of the institution had largely increased. His able manner of dealing with discouraging circumstances stamped him anew as a most efficient and resourceful executive officer. Dr. Gilman was offered the superintendency of the public schools of New York City but declined the position. He has held many public positions, among the most important being his place as a commissioner on the boundary line dispute between Venezuela and British Columbia. Dr. Gilman is a well-known writer on educational topics and has published many books. His selection as Director of the Washington Memorial Institution places him in a most prominent position. The work has a limitless outlook and Dr. Gilman is the man to recognize and develop its possibilities. In 1872 he was called to the presidency of the University of California. In 1875, when Johns Hopkins University was organized, Dr. Gilman was appointed as its president. He held that position until his retirement this year. It was at Johns Hopkins that Dr. Gilman reached the height of his reputation. In an incredibly short time he placed the institution at the head of the great universities in scholarship and influence. During the last years of his presidency Dr. Gilman was obliged to encounter many financial problems, as the securities from which the university derived its income had greatly depreciated in value.

Sir Francis Laking is one of three physicians who have been appointed to care for the physical well-being of King Edward. He was the first physician to accompany the king out of England. He was doubtless chosen on account of his social talents as well as his skill as a practitioner. Sir Francis believes thoroughly in the influence of a cheerful mind and lively manner upon the health. He is a great collector of curios and his first move is to interest his would-be patient in these somewhat novel furnishings of a doctor's office. His son is an acknowledged authority upon old furniture and King Edward has frequently sought his advice in regard to alterations in the royal homes. Sir Francis is very free from general "fads" or peculiar ideas concerning his profession. He does, however, talk much of the conservation of energy and claims the best way to rest is to go to bed. This, he claims, would renew energy much more rapidly than the hurry of a rush to new scenes. Sir Francis is generally esteemed for his lively, interesting conversation which seems as effective as medicine.

This is an age of magnificent giving. Millions are given away annually and the man who gives it is one of the most common features of American life. Nevertheless the personality of the giver is always of interest. Dr. D. K. Parsons of Chicago has given away nearly three millions within the last three years. His gifts are to colleges and educational institutions. He always attaches conditions to his gifts so that a certain sum must be raised before his gift is available. Dr. Parsons refuses to be regarded as a philanthropist and refuses to read the hundreds of begging letters that he receives. He says in explanation of his giving that as an old man who has labored nearly eighty years, he realizes that he could not carry his wealth with him but wishes to see it serve a useful purpose. He then commenced giving his wealth to small colleges that were centers of culture and light in the sections where they were. Dr. Parsons says that he never spent twenty dollars foolishly in his life. He has never attended a horse-race or football game and has been inside a theater but once. He declares that he has no benevolence in him and that this can be seen by looking at his face. He has been so annoyed at the publicity given his gifts that hereafter he will distribute his fortune in secret.

Sir Thomas Lipton has won a place in the affections of the American people. The great gold loving-cup that was sent him after Shamrock II. was defeated, was an expression of admiration for the plucky Irishman. In many re-



I Will Cure You of Rheumatism. No Pay Until You Know It.

After 2,000 experiments, I have learned how to cure Rheumatism. Not to turn bony joints into flesh again; that is impossible. But I can cure the disease always, at any stage, and forever.

I ask for no money. Simply write me a postal and I will send you an order on your nearest druggist for six bottles of Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure, for every druggist keeps it. Use it for a month, and if it does what I claim pay your druggist \$5.50 for it. If it doesn't, I will pay him myself.

I have no samples. Any medicine that can affect Rheumatism with but a few doses must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs. It is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood.

My remedy does that, even in the most difficult, obstinate cases. No matter how impossible this seems to you. I know it and I take this risk. I have cured tens of thousands of cases in this way, and my records show that 39 out of 40 who get those six bottles pay, and gladly. I have learned that people in general are honest with a physician who cures them. That is all I ask. If I fail I don't expect a penny from you.

Simply write me a postal card or letter. Let me send you an order for the medicine; also a book. Take it for a month, for it won't harm you anyway. If it cures pay \$5.50. I leave that entirely to you. Address Dr. Shoop, Box 304, Racine, Wis.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.

spects the story of Sir Thomas' life reads like a page out of the life of many an American millionaire. Some of this energy was borrowed in America for Sir Thomas did not come to America the first time with a famous racing boat and with a steam yacht with a party of distinguished visitors. He landed here forty years ago as a stowaway in the steerage of a transatlantic liner. He left with one idea in his twelve-year-old head and that was the American methods of hustling. He succeeded in coaxing his father, who was a poor workman in Glasgow, to give him his savings. With the four hundred dollars thus gained he started a little store whose main staple was tea. From this humble beginning has grown a fortune of at least fifty millions. The small proprietor of the small shop is the largest tea grower in Ceylon, a pork packer in Chicago, a manufacturer of ginger ale in Dublin, and a candy maker in London, with warehouses dotted all over the globe and thousands of men in his employ. Five hundred and twenty stores have sprung from that little Glasgow shop. All of the money that Sir Thomas made at first was spent in advertising his wares. His interest in yachting has been an expensive venture. It is estimated that six hundred thousand dollars would no more than cover the expenses connected with the building and racing of Shamrock I. and Shamrock II. One of Sir Thomas's expressions of advice is, "Saving is the first great principle of all success."

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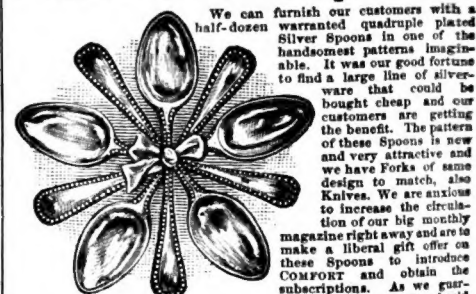
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Winter Sports in Minnesota.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



DURING the long cold winter months in Minnesota, where the thermometer often registers from 15 degrees to 30 degrees below zero for several weeks at a time, and where the snow plow is in almost daily use, where even the brilliant mid-day sun fails to temper the crisp cold atmosphere, enthusiasm in out of door sports knows no bounds. After a day of comparatively moderate weather, when a slow rain has gradually changed into a heavy snow storm which has left the entire country round about covered with a firm white crust, the scene is one of unparalleled beauty.

In one of the principal cities of the state, a wide avenue winds in continuous curves for a couple of miles, then extends onward in a straight line to the banks of the famous Mississippi river. Many superb residences line this beautiful thoroughfare on either side, real homes, designed for the comfort of their occupants as well as artistic effect, and in which the most cordial hospitality is extended. On looking from the doorstep of one of these attractive houses, early on a winter's morning through arched trees whose snow laden boughs glisten in the bright sunlight, over the snow covered lawns and up the long still avenue as far as the eye can reach, one hesitates to step out, to be the first to sully the perfect purity of the dazzling white expanse, to break the complete stillness which nature has assumed. In an hour or two what a different aspect will be presented. This same stately street will be the center of life and motion, handsome equipages of all descriptions, lined with luxurious furs and drawn by prancing thoroughbreds, will fly along. More modest turnouts will also be seen, numerous cutters and smaller vehicles, and then will come the "bobs", filled with school children, laughing and chattering and "holding on" as the long double-runners skim easily over the frozen snow.

"Bobbing" in the west differs greatly from coasting in the eastern states; in the former locality the bob, often eighteen or twenty feet long, is drawn by horses, and not generally used for sliding down hills, as in New England and New York. To those who enjoy outdoor sports in winter time there are a few more enjoyable amusements than a bobbing party of some twelve or fourteen guests, all congenial spirits. Let us go back two or three years, and imagine ourselves with such a party, assembled at the home of some charming young hostess, about to start for the Carnival. Much gaiety is here, and the young people are of the representative families of the city. Such an array of colors. Here is a bright young fellow clad from head to toe in blue and white, another by his side in deep contrast wears orange and black, while there is a merry maiden all in scarlet, her toque resting on her dark brown hair in a most coquettish manner, its large tassels tossing to and fro with every motion of her shapely head. Her arms are full of tin trumpets decorated with colored ribbons, which she is distributing to the guests. Each guest is presented with one of these horns before starting, and is expected to do his or her share in "blowing", this being one of the features of a bobbing party. All are in good spirits, and one couple have skates hung over their shoulders, for though the Carnival offers many attractions, not the least among these is the excellent skating offered.

Soon a loud gong is heard, and the arrival of the bob is announced. A general exit is quickly made, for all are eager to start. The bob is long and spacious, well cushioned, with a comfortable foot-rail, and a driver's seat in front. Three high-spirited horses stand nervously pawing the ground, made impatient to be off by the clear frosty air. There is a great scramble for seats, some preferring to sit sideways and some astride. Large robes are carried, but not usually needed, for each one is well protected from the cold by extra clothing. Moccasins are generally worn over two or three pairs of heavy woolen hose, unless one anticipates skating upon arriving at the Carnival.

Amid such cheering, blowing of horns, and ringing of the gong, with one of which a bob is usually provided, the horses start away and the party is soon skimming along at a lightning pace, horses galloping, snow flying, and the air made musical with song and laughter. A sharp corner is turned, a scream is heard, and a quick stop is made. Some one leaned the wrong way, and has rolled off. Two or three of the party run back to rescue the unfortunate individual, and find her just rising out of the deep snow, laughing heartily and vigorously brushing her clothes. Soon they have caught up with the others and a fresh start is made.

In a few minutes the more unfrequented streets are reached, where snow drifts are piled high. The road is uncertain here, and it is considered rather tame if the bob is not overturned at least once during the trip, for every one enjoys a good tumble into the soft snow, and rarely does an accident prove serious. Many lights are now seen in the distance, and glittering in the moonlight the Ice Palace rises before us from its foundation of snow like a huge berg towering skyward in a northern sea. A closer approach reveals a perfect fairyland. A high stockade built of huge blocks of ice,

clear as crystal, with round towers, encloses the whole. The entrance, a broad archway brilliantly illuminated by electric lights, opens invitingly to all comers; those in Carnival costume, that is, in toboggan suits and toques, are admitted free, while the looker on in civilian dress pays a small sum for the privilege of entering.

Once inside one is bewildered. So many attractions offer themselves, a choice is hard to make. Our party divides, three or four hasten to the toboggan chutes and are soon rapidly descending the steep incline and shooting over the well iced track; others have gone into the cafe and are refreshing the inner man with hot drinks and sandwiches, for the Minnesota air is at all times conducive to good appetites. Four of the girls and men are satisfying their curiosity in regard to the Indians, for several Sioux are encamped here, inside the grounds, and much interest is taken in their tepee or wigwam. By bending almost to the ground one is able to enter the tepee, and can soon make friends with these good-natured Redmen by offering them a few cigarettes, which courtesy is often returned by the offer of a pipeful of their native tobacco. There are Indians too, fantastically gotten up in paint and feathers, who dance various war dances on an open stage constructed for this purpose.

After fully enjoying the many different entertainments provided by the management, our party gathers together once more, and among the last to leave are the two enthusiastic skaters, who have been content to cut graceful curves on the glassy ice throughout the entire evening without as much as a thought of other amusement. We all now wander to the curling rink and there watch the progress of this interesting Scotch game which has taken such an hold in this country, and whose Minnesota headquarters on Raspberry Island is the scene of many a famous "Bonspeil." After this we visit the hockey game which is going on, and then as our chaperone urges us to the bob again we leave very reluctantly, though knowing that the fun is not yet ended. We take our seats once more and are soon speeding toward the house of our hostess, where a substantial lunch awaits us. Here we find a table most temptingly spread and never are dainties more appreciated. After we have done justice to the delicious repast the bob is again called for, and amid leavetakings and expressions of gratitude to our hostess we take our seats and are driven to our homes, there to enjoy the profound slumber which our evening spent in the cold northern air has assured.

The large quantity of snow which falls in the Northwest often remains on the ground for months, and during that time snow-shoeing is a source of pleasure to both young and old. Many clubs are formed which are devoted

wholly to this amusement and long runs are frequently taken, the long, swinging gait being soon acquired. Fort Snelling is often the objective point, and it is well worth miles of snow-shoe travel to view this historic place by moonlight, as is often done.

On a high bluff overlooking the river with its picturesque shores and numerous islands, commanding a view of many miles, stands this noble old fort. Unpretentious in appearance, but bearing signs of having served its country well, it survived the period of strife and struggle and has earned the right to stand in peace, as a monument to those early pioneers whose strong characters and indomitable wills subdued the natives and gave to the white man a new land.

Owing perhaps, to the large Swedish and Norwegian element in Minnesota, the use of the Scandinavian ski has become general. Exciting contests in jumping are held, and they are also used for traveling over the deep snow on level ground, where a long pole is used to push one forward in long, swinging strokes.

In jumping matches, the contestants start from the brow of a suitable hill and descend at a rapid pace, the speed increasing every instant. About one third of the way down the slope the "jump" is arranged; a low trestle, or else a lot of faggots covered with snow is placed here to form a level spot from which to leap, and on reaching this point, a spring is made by the runner; for a moment he is seen standing apparently in mid-air, then as he gradually descends, he raises the heels of his skis, and lands easily on the snowy surface. Usually the jumpers land on both feet at once, though the more skillful performers place one foot before the other. The jumper then continues to shoot the decline with terrific force, and on reaching the bottom by leaning to one side or the other, he curves round and is able to make a full stop. Some phenomenal jumps are made by experts, often from one hundred and ten to one hundred and twenty-five feet in length, and the sport has become very popular and has many devotees.

Of all the winter sports, the most exciting is ice-boating. Here it is that one's nerves are put to their full test; here the adventurous shine, while the timid person appears at a great disadvantage. With the ice as smooth as a mirror, and a good brisk wind blowing, nothing more thrilling can be imagined than to lie on one of these boats, and to feel one'sself being carried along at the rate of a mile a minute, over the glassy surface of some frozen lake. On White Bear Lake, about fifteen miles from St. Paul, this sport is much indulged in. Often one of the many handsome cottages is opened for a day to receive a party from one of the neighboring cities. Huge fires are built in the great fireplaces, which most of these cottage possess, and after a few trips upon the iceboat have been made the less enthusiastic of the party return to the house, glad to warm themselves and "talk it over" before starting out again to brave the winter's blast, which is here so keenly felt.

The Carnival generally closes with the storm-

ing of the Ice Palace. Words are inadequate to describe this magnificent spectacle. Thousands of dollars are spent in fire-works, and for a time the winter evening is converted into a veritable "Fourth of July." On this occasion, the numerous snow-shoe clubs assemble at some central spot and march in long procession to the Carnival grounds, where they are assigned places. Some are put in a position of defence to guard the palace and some attack it from outside the walls. All carry rockets and Roman candles and at a given signal the storming begins. A volley from the invading party begins the attack, then comes a perfect rain of fire from the defenders, and for many moments a mock battle is carried on, the whole vicinity appearing as if some meteoric shower was descending with terrible fury upon the earth.

After a short struggle, the defence is apparently abandoned, and the actual storming begins. From all directions, and from every window, door and tower comes such a blaze of illumination that all comparisons lose their significance, and one seems transported to some unknown country, where warring elements no longer contend together, but rather unite, to form a perfect picture of light and beauty.

An Old Magazine.



A unique magazine is called the Star of Hope. It is published bi-weekly and circulated among the convicts in Auburn, Sing Sing, and the Clinton prisons. All the editorial as well as the mechanical work on the magazine is done by the convicts themselves, who take a very lively interest in their publication. With but few exceptions, the magazine circulates entirely within the prison walls, yet nearly five thousand copies of each edition are circulated. The contents of the magazine is made up of editorials, many of which are very able, current news and reviews, and a humorous column. Among the convicts the Star of Hope is regarded as a most welcome relief from the weary round of prison life.

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SEND \$1.00 DEPOSIT and we will send the machine C. O. D. by freight, subject to examination, you to pay the agent \$0.25 and freight charges, less the \$1.00, after you find it exactly as described and perfectly satisfactory, otherwise it will be returned at our expense. For \$1.00 extra, or \$10.95, we will furnish the same machine elaborately decorated on table and drawers with beautiful floral marquetry work.

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You can't have too many clocks in your home and even if you have a number made of marble, iron, onyx or china, you have not got one that will give you as much genuine pleasure or be so much admired and coveted by your friends as this handsome Swiss Clock. Two times the importation into this country of these Swiss made clocks has been forbidden. However we succeeded in procuring, on very favorable terms, an entire consignment which we shall give away absolutely free as premiums with our charming monthly.

SPECIAL OFFER. If you will send us a club of only 5 special trial subscriptions to our magazine at 25c. each per year we will send you one of these Swiss Clocks as a free premium and send our magazine one year to each subscriber. Clock will be carefully packed and sent by mail or express at our expense and is a magnificent reward for a slight effort.

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It is generally believed that the way of the consumptive is the way of the child—that the seeds of the malady are transmitted in the blood.

The startling but false spectre of this human scourge has long been erroneously encouraged to stalk abroad in the land and terrify the quaking offspring of its victims.

The veil of mystery has finally been torn from the apparition by industrious, scientific detectives, and the delusion has vanished. Consumption is never inherited.

Consumptive tendency means hereditary weakness which favors the attack of germs from external sources.

The "Bacillus" can attack only those tissues weak from birth or changed by the effects of previous disease.

The battle-cry must be **Prevention!** The most potent preventive and curative system of treatment known to science is that formed by

Four Free Preparations, compounded and manufactured in the great Laboratories of Dr. Slocum in New York.

Consumption is forestalled and cured by his antiseptic, germicidal and nourishing Emulsion, the protective and healing Expectant, the restorative Tonic and the medicinal soothing Ozojell that heals all irritation of the nose, throat and mucous membranes. The preparations may be used singly or together. In combination they fortify any weakened system against not only Consumption, but any wasting disease.

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All four great remedies are free to threatened and actual consumptives. Write to

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giving your post office and express address, and mentioning COMFORT, when all four preparations will be sent to you free of cost, with full directions for use in any case.

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\$5.70 Genuine American Model Full Jeweled, adjusted patent regulator, stem wind and stem set watch, Ladies' or Gents' size. Beautifully engraved 14k Gold plate hunting case, with guarantee for 20 YEARS. Sent by express C.O.D. with privilege to examine thoroughly before paying one cent, if found best value ever given pay express agent our special price \$5.70 and express charges. Handsome chain & charm sent with each watch. If desired we will enclose our full name on face of watch free. **NO. 12 MFG. CO. Dept. E, 120-124 Dearborn St., Chicago.**

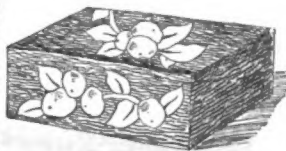
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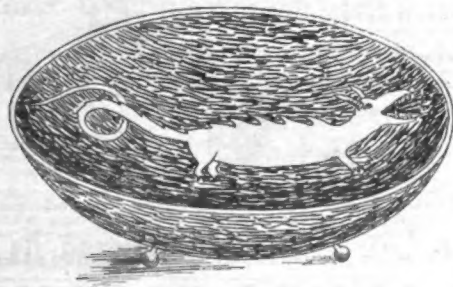


men of public interest at the time used to assemble at the taverns along the public highways, and sit before the huge fireplaces smoking and telling their stories, it was customary often for them to burn some sketch, or trite saying, or autograph with a red hot poker into the wood work around the hearth. From this then, perhaps, arose the term "poker work" often applied to this art of burning wood and leather.

In 1884 in Munich, productions of this work were first exhibited, but the process of obtaining such results was kept a secret, known only to a few artists. Immediately all the shop windows displayed an instrument with which they claimed the work was done. A metal style encased in wood similar in appearance to a lead pencil, which was heated over an alcohol lamp, was used for some time after for tracing designs; but this was so tedious and so imperfect that it was dispensed with. Shortly after it became known generally that professionals employed a device which doctors used in operating, in which a platinum point or style was kept incandescent by an electric current. Finally benzine was employed as the heating agent, and this brings us to the present instrument in use all over our country, at least, by artists and artisans alike for it does not require the power of originating a design in order to be successful in this art. There are so many good outline drawings one can trace, and much of our best work in this line is done by those who are merely able to reproduce that which artists have drawn. The instrument consists of two one-half inch rubber tubes about a foot and a half long, each extending in opposite directions from a four ounce bottle, tightly corked, containing benzine or gasoline. At the end of one tube (which is operated with the left hand) are two bulbs; the smaller one being squeezed forces air into the larger one which acts as sort of a retort or holder so that the force may be regulated; at the end of the other tube (which of course is operated with the right hand) is a long pencil-like arrangement with a cork handle and a platinum point. When one is ready to work the point is held over an alcohol lamp or gas burner or even the heat of an ordinary candle will serve to heat red hot this point, all the while squeezing the bulb with the left hand; this forces the gas arising from the benzine along into the point and keeps it in a constant red heat. Then the operator applies the point to his design and an outline is burned just as it would be traced by a pencil and almost as simply; after the design is well worked in, in order to set it off, a background has to be made for it and this is accomplished in various ways; by drawing the point in lines slowly over the surfaces of the wood very close together, heavy ridges are made which produce a very wavy effect. Often wavy lines are appropriate, or dots, produced by touching lightly the surface of the wood with the point of the instrument. All sorts and kinds of backgrounds are effective and interesting and may be worked up by the originality of the operator. A very delicate and pretty finish for the article then, is to color with water-color paints the design in appropriate colors and finally either shellac or wax is applied as a finishing touch. In using the latter a regular prepared floor wax is the proper thing, applied very lightly and polished when dry with a soft brush.



JEWEL BOX.



NUT BOWL.

In wood, all kinds of very useful as well as ornamental articles may be made in a very short time and with very little expense. The principal cost is the instrument which is never less than five dollars, and usually just that price.

Among other things which may be decorated are small boxes, round and square, picture frames, small round chopping trays, pipe racks, book racks, canoe paddles and salad forks and spoons. Out of these things mentioned a few could be made by the operator himself which would lessen the expense of the article. And many beautiful bits of household furniture such as small chairs and stools are very simply made and very easily decorated and may be seen in many of our large furniture stores exhibited as their most delicate and newest bits of craft. The Indians taught us that "poker work" on leather was an art in itself, and skins of all kinds may be crudely decorated to make novel ornaments, such as frames for pictures slashed and burned on the edges, magazine covers and card cases and even book covers form a more delicate but very practical branch of this art. In fact even plush and velvet have been successfully burned. But while every kind of wood may be used (except resinous pine) hard wood is the best. In this, holly, maple and cherry lead, and many wonderful and valuable compositions may be made if one

is only able to select and adapt suitable designs. Many attempts have been made to substitute another cheaper metal for the platinum point now in use but thus far they have been unsuccessful for practical purposes; until this point does make place for one of steel or iron or some inexpensive material the cost of the instrument will be practically the only expense to this very attractive art.

Hall-Marked Plate.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN books one hundred and two hundred years old we frequently come across the word "plate," in speaking of precious metals. The term is rather confusing to Americans, who call by this name articles plated with silver or gold.

The old meaning was simply silver money, and was derived from the Spanish word for silver, "plate." Later the term was applied in England to all articles of silver, (with the exception of money.)

Those of us who are fortunate enough to possess silver articles of old English make have no doubt noticed the devices and marks stamped upon them, but few of us have ever thought of the significance of these marks.

These "hall-marks" as they are called are quite interesting.

Six hundred years ago, the workers in precious metals decided that their wares should be marked in some particular way, in order that their customers might have some guarantee that the goods they bought were genuine. Accordingly they formed a guild, known as Goldsmith's Hall and caused laws to be passed forbidding the sale of silver plate that did not bear the "hall-mark". Goldsmith's Hall flourishes at the present, though the hall-marks have undergone some change.

Wardens were elected by the guild, whose duty it was to pass upon the quality of goods submitted for their inspection.

Before exposing his wares for sale the manufacturer was obliged to send them to Goldsmith's Hall, after stamping each piece with his private mark. Here the goods were assayed and if found of the proper fineness were stamped with the assayer's mark. This was a letter of the alphabet, a different one was used every year, and when the alphabet was exhausted, letters of a different design were used. The wardens then stamped the plate with the mark of the hall, a leopard's head, crowned, and the silver could then legally be put on sale.

If not found up to the standard for fineness, however, the plate was crushed into a shapeless mass and returned to the makers. Severe penalties were imposed for counterfeiting the marks of the Hall.

The marks above described were the only ones used on plate until 1696, when a lion's head was substituted for the leopard's head, and also a full-length figure of Britannia. These goods were known as "Britannia standard", and were of a finer quality than the silver plate made before that date. This silver was found too soft for general use, however, and but little was made. The last device added was the head of the reigning sovereign, which has been used since 1784. In 1542 the coinage became very much debased, and the leopard's head lost its significance, which was that the plate was equal in fineness to coin. Accordingly the figure of a lion was added to the hall-marks to signify that the plate was up to the old standard of fineness.

In the United States, until recently, no such precautions in regard to silver plate were taken by law, and purchasers were obliged to take the manufacturer's word that their goods were genuine. Makers stamped their goods "coin" or "sterling," it is true, but no law required this. In 1894 New York State adopted the English standard and made it a misdemeanor to sell silver goods marked "sterling" unless they were 925-1000 fine. Later several of the other states enacted similar laws.

CATARRH CAN BE CURED.

Catarrh is a kindred ailment of consumption, long considered incurable; and yet there is one remedy that will positively cure catarrh in any of its stages. For many years this remedy was used by the late Dr. Stevens, a widely noted authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption and nervous diseases, this recipe in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 847 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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In the world is Aluminum. You have no idea how well it is adapted to every-day use unless you have one of our Frosted Silver Finish Aluminum Pencils, vest pocket size, patent lead protecting delivery when not in use, can be concealed and prevent lead from breaking. A business man's pencil, a ladies' pencil, or for school children there is no equal. To get our big catalogue of novelties into new hands we will send one for only 5c. Address **SUNSHINE**, Augusta, Maine.

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HAVE YOU GOT RHEUMATISM? A 50 CENT BOX FREE!

For rheumatism that horrible plague. I discovered a harmless remedy, and in order that every suffering reader may learn about it, I will gladly mail him a box free. This wonderful remedy which I discovered by a fortunate chance, has cured many cases of 30 and 40 years' standing, among them persons of upwards 90 years of age. No matter what your form of rheumatism is, this remedy will surely cure you. Do not mind if doctors say you are incurable. Mind no one but write me at once and by return mail you will receive the box, also the most elaborate illustrated book ever gotten up on the subject of rheumatism absolutely free. It will tell you all about your case. You get this remedy and wonderful book at the same time, both free, so let me hear from you at once.

JOHN A. SMITH,
2741 Germania Bldg., Milwaukee, Wis.

HERE are four companies in the United States which manufacture pens. This does not include gold pens, which is a separate industry, but the ordinary steel, brass and German silver pens of commerce. The steel is imported from Sheffield, England, and is of the very best quality. Many experiments have been made with American steel, but none has been found yet that is suitable for the purpose. The raw material comes in sheets three or four inches wide and from sixteen to twenty feet long. Though apparently a simple piece of work, the process of making pens includes some very delicate and accurate manipulations, as each pen has to go through nearly twenty different processes before it is ready to be shipped.

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When to MARRY and when to REMARRY & UNFURNISHED periods of life. With my ADVICE your SUCCESS is assured, and to prove this I will on receipt of the enclosed stamp send you a complete outline of your future. **PROF. RENFREW, MEDFORD, MASS.**

Farmers' Sons Wanted—with knowledge of farm stock and fair education to work in an office; \$45 a month with advancement; steady employment; must be honest and reliable. Branch office, or the association are being established in each state. Apply at once, giving full particulars. The Veterinary Science Ass'n, London, Canada.

Sudden Death



If you have heart disease you are in grave danger. You may die any minute—anywhere. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. If you have any of the following symptoms, don't waste any time. Get my Heart Tablets at once.

Fluttering, palpitation, or skipping beats (always due to weak or diseased heart); shortness of breath from going upstairs, walking, etc.; tenderness, numbness or pain in left side, arm or under shoulder blade; fainting spells, dizziness, hungry or weak spells; spots before the eyes; sudden starting in sleep, dreaming, nightmare;

Heart Disease

choking sensation in throat; oppressed feeling in chest; cold hands and feet; painful to lie on left side; dropsy; swelling of the feet or ankles (one of the surest signs); neuralgia around the heart; sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.

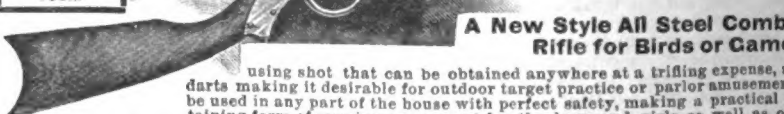
They will restore you to health and strength as they have hundreds of other men and women.

FREE To prove how absolutely I believe in them, to prove that they will do exactly what I say, I will send a box free to any name and address sent me. One trial will do more to convince you than any amount of talk. It will cost you nothing, and may save your life. Send for a trial box and enclose stamp for postage.

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A New Style All Steel Combination Rifle for Birds or Game

using shot that can be obtained anywhere at a trifling expense, also shoot darts making it desirable for outdoor target practice or parlor amusement or it can be used in any part of the house with perfect safety, making a practical and entertaining form of evening amusement for the boys and girls as well as older folks. There is no smoke, odor or dust from this gun, it is endorsed by army officers as the best mechanical rifle ever produced and the possession of one of our accurate shooting air rifles makes a boy manly and affords him an excellent means of successfully competing with his chums for marksman's honors as well as teaching him the use of a rifle. Remember this is a combination gun, so your boy should have one be he old or young. If he is sick in the house he can shoot darts and keep out of mischief or go into the woods for game and get robust and healthy besides.

SPECIAL. Send at once for sample copies of our big monthly and subscription blanks and canvass among the neighbors. For a club of four yearly subscribers at the popular price of 25c. each, \$1.00 in all, we will send one of these King Pneumatic Rifles as a present, all charges paid, guaranteeing absolute satisfaction. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

Remember the above is a real gun, nearly three feet long. It looks like a gun and shoots like a gun.

HIGH GRADE NINE RIB MANDOLIN.

The Sweetest Music Ever Heard Comes from this Instrument.

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There is no musical instrument giving more delightful strains of soft, sweet music than a Mandolin. This is particularly so of this instrument we offer, in fact it is made so well and thoroughly that the factory could not continue on the meager profits. The materials entering into the make up of this instrument are all first quality, selected prepared woods, two kinds, Mahogany and Maple, in two colors, carefully put together with a fancy inlay between each strip and around sound hole, imitation tortoise shell guard plate, rosewood finger board, inlaid pearl positions, nickel tail piece and trimmings, eight strings together with tortoise shell picker, green bag and instruction book, a complete outfit that is bound to delight. This mandolin embodies the perfect and ingenious form of an original instrument brought to this country many years ago, its perfect shape is an exact copy and is covered by several patents. This you should consider as you can not get the same pure sweet resonance from instruments of inferior make and it is just these things that go to make a Mandolin attractive.

For a club of only 10 yearly trial subscribers to our magazine at 25c. each per year we will send our magazine to each a whole year and give you one of the mandolins as a free reward for your effort. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

WOMEN WANTED Do Binding, \$9.00 week. Steady work. Material furnished. Free and sent prepaid. Send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. Universal Co., Dept. 29, Walnut Street, Phila., Pa.

DEAF Cured by Electricity. No Drugs. 6 months' trial. Full information. W. J. TINDALL, B. 10, Cohoes, N.Y.

FAT How to reduce it. Mr. Hugo Dietz, 344 E. 55th St., New York City, writes: "It reduced my weight 40 lbs. three years ago, and I have not gained an ounce since." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. **Hall Chemical Co.,** Dept. R, ST. LOUIS, MO.

FREE A WATCH and CHAIN and CHARM for a few hours work. We give this elegant Gold laid, Stem Wind, and Stem Set watch and a beautiful heavy gold plated watch-chain and charm, either ladies' or gents' style. Absolutely Free for selling our perfume. The chain is made of heavy gold plate in the latest design and a very pretty charm. The watch is a beauty, handsomely engraved in a beautiful design. It is made by one of the largest factories in the world, finely finished and fully guaranteed. We expect to give away thousands of these presents to introduce our goods. Send your name and address and we will send you 12 pips of perfume to sell at 10 cents each. When sold send us \$1.20 and we will send you the ladies' or gents' watch-chain and charm as described above. We send presents promptly. **EMPIRE PERFUME CO.,** 330 Fulton St., Dept. 25, Brooklyn, N.Y.

MUSICAL PIPE On it any one can play a tune they know. It is a real Musical Instrument. The Multiphone Musical Pipe is a great surprise to every one for besides getting real made out of this little Wonder you can imitate any Bird or Animal, and produce all sorts of queer and varied noises. The diaphragm has the same principle as the Telephone and Phonograph, and the operator can successfully imitate most any sort of Musical instrument or sound, and the vibration is such that you can have a Saxophone, Bag Pipe, Clarinet, Trombone, or most any other instrument all contained and manipulated in the Musical Pipe. These Pipes are beautifully and strongly made, colored Red, White and Blue. It is the most ingenious and satisfactory production ever offered to the public. Get one. You cannot fail to make a hit. Full directions with each instrument. **SPECIAL OFFER.** If you will send the name of one person for a full year's subscription to our interesting home magazine at 15c. we will send the magazine regularly, as issued, and as a free gift we will send you postpaid One Musical Pipe as above described. One dozen postpaid, 85c. Address **NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.**



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least two new Cousins into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send two new subscribers with each letter, together with 50 cents for the yearly subscriptions.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *Comfort*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Harriet W. Seaver,	\$3.00
Mrs. J. O. Adams,	2.50
Max Bennett Thrasher,	2.00
Minnie I. Jones,	1.50
Frederick W. Newlands,	1.00

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

"See, Winter comes to rule the varied year," as old Thompson has it in his "Seasons," but the hoary old monarch "rules" as variously as the latitude in which he finds his subjects will allow. No tyrant with laws as unalterable as those of the Medes and Persians is he, but while he holds stern rule over a part of his realm he smiles softly upon the dwellers in other zones. Let us visit, in our first letter, a portion of his domain where snow and ice herald his coming, and call, with the writer of the letter, upon a community of Shakers living there.

"Almost at the beginning of the White Mountain range in New Hampshire and about twelve miles northeast from Concord, lies the typical country village of Canterbury; and a drive of four miles from the post-office (which in all places is the center of population), over a winding, hilly road, brings one to one of the most prosperous Shaker communities of all those which are scattered over our country. On approaching this little settlement one is tempted to exclaim: 'Another white city!' For in truth everything has that spotless appearance that only a coat of whitewash can give.

"We were very cordially greeted by one of the 'Sisters,' who for the sum of fifty cents conducted us over the establishment, and her primitive 'yes' and 'nay' to our questions, together with her unadorned linen gown and bonnet, for the time being made us feel that we were transported to, at least, some place further away than a New Hampshire village. And while we were going through the yard, to and from the different buildings the following is the bit of information I gleaned concerning this little sect.

"Being an offspring from the Quakers they were originally called in derision Shaking-Quakers, owing to their antics and movements when they were inspired. But they chose to call themselves 'The United Society of Believers.' Their leader, Ann Lee, a most remarkable woman, came to this country from England in the last part of the eighteenth century and settled with her few followers near Albany, N.Y., from whence tours were made resulting in the establishment of various Shaker communities throughout the East. Their four pillars of belief are Christian communism, virgin purity, confession of sin (to God before a witness) and separation from the world; in short, followers of Christ to the letter.

"A very interesting argument, doubtless, between my companion and the aforesaid 'Sister' was cut short by our arrival at the 'dairy,' where we had nothing less than boundless admiration for the cleanliness and system with which all the work moved together. From there we went to the store-room where the antique furniture, china and every imaginable thing is sold—at a very reasonable price, by the way—and finally we completed our trip by going to the store and buying candied nuts and flag-root, such as only these Shakers can make from their swamps of flag which are just across the street. And as we waved our good-by and drove away we realized that the spirit of communism and happiness for the moment was contagious, and always we 'doff our hats,' so to speak, to the good fellowship and unselfishness of the Shakers."

HARRIET W. SEAVER, Boston, Mass.

Now for a few words from another quarter of our country.

"Mobile lies thirty-two miles from Fort Morgan, on the Mobile river. Across the river is East Mobile, formerly a marshy spot, but now improved to such an extent that saw-mills, ways for the repair of vessels, wharves, booms and numerous other industries line the shore, while along the wharves of Mobile for miles can be seen vessels loading and unloading. Many of them are engaged in the fruit trade, which also has a large overland traffic, trains of cars loading with fruit filling the side tracks far and near. On our north is Magazine Point, a milling place in front of which vessels from all nations lie in the stream loading with lumber and timber. The small near-by towns of

Whistler, Citronelle and Pritchard have also saw-mills, distilleries, cotton mills and a basket factory. Spring Hill, with its park and fine scenery, is one of our many attractions, while Oakland, with its fine houses erected by northern people and its grand ancient-modern shell road, shadowed by great trees—magnolia, sweet bay and live oak—and extending for seven miles along the shore of the bay and gulf, dotted all the way by places of amusement, parks, beautiful houses, and bending like a horse shoe as it follows the course of the water, makes a beautiful ride or walk. This is a favorite resort for picnic parties, banqueting parties, encampments of soldier boys and of private parties.

"We are proud of our city, of her energy and pluck, of her wealth and beauty, but we expect greater things of her in the future, when her resources are more fully developed, and we hope the time will soon come when the word 'Greater' will apply as fully to her as it now does to New York."

MRS. ADA MOORE CARNEY, Mobile, Ala.

Our next letter takes us to a part of our country where Winter rules very mildly.

"A stranger visiting Charleston, S. C., would doubtless observe, among other objects of interest, within one of the city's public squares the figure of a man, from whose body for over a century, the right arm has been absent. It is the statue of William Pitt, the English champion of American rights, and was raised by the grateful people of a struggling colony in commemoration of his heroic efforts to obtain an alleviation of Great Britain's unjust and burdensome taxation. The statue on its western front bears the following inscription:

'In grateful memory of his services to his country in general, and to America in particular, The Common House of Assembly of South Carolina

Unanimously voted that this statue of The Right Hon. William Pitt, Esq. Who gloriously exerted himself in defending the freedom of Americans.

The true sons of England, by promising a repeal of the Stamp Act in the year 1766.

Time shall sooner destroy this mark of their esteem, than erase from their minds their just sense of his patriotic virtue.'

It was originally erected at the intersection of Broad and Meeting streets, which then (in 1769) formed the northern and western boundaries of the town.

During the siege of Charleston by the British in 1780, the English

battery on James Island, near Charleston, knocked from the statue its right arm, and thus mutilated it has since remained. In 1808 it was deemed best to remove the figure of the Englishman to the beautiful grounds of the Charleston Orphans' Home, upon the threshold of which for more than fifty years it stood as though with its single arm offering its guardianship to the Orphans' Home.

Perhaps an effort would have been made for the restoration of the important lost member had Pitt's memory remained in unadorned enshrinement within the American heart; but his declaration that America

had 'no right to manufacture even a nail for a horseshoe' uttered but a few years after his noble efforts to assist her, must naturally have produced in the struggling patriots quite a revulsion of feeling towards their former champion.

"Thus the statue of the English earl, erected in appreciative admiration by a grateful people, has now become a simple landmark of their country's history, and in 1881 at the request of the South Carolina Historical Society, it was removed from the Orphans' Home to Washington Square, where it has since remained."

J. O. ADAMS, Beaufort, S. C.

Here is a new cousin from Georgia whom we welcome most heartily.

"I am deeply interested in *Comfort* and would like to join the cousins. I offer them this month a description of a beautiful cave where once I attended a picnic on the Fourth of July. It is called Riverdale Cave, and, by some, the Haunted Cave and the Indian Cave. It is situated on the bank of the Etowah river, is about one mile in extent and looks as if it were intended for inhabitants, having four separate rooms, one of which seems to have been especially made for a ball room while another seems more suitable for a sitting room, having a stone in one corner that resembles a center table, and another large stone which reminds one of a reclining chair. This last stone is beautifully carved, not so finely finished as a skilled workman would have done it, but wonderful as the work of nature. The walls and floors of the rooms are much smoother than the chair, for they are almost like polished marble.

"There is a rather narrow and rugged passage that extends from the rooms to the river, and in this passage are several large springs the depth of which have never, as yet, been ascertained, so deep are they. There is also in this passage a large rock, from fifteen to twenty feet in height. It is soft, smooth, and of a whitish color, and thousands of people visiting the cavern have inscribed their names on the 'Tall Rock,' as it is called. Some of the dates written there are as far back as 1821. It is said that in olden times many travelers have lost their lives in this passage while seeking shelter from storms, and strangers need a guide through its dark, treacherous mazes.

"Many pleasant picnics and other entertainments have taken place here, but the most beautiful scene which I ever remember here was a wedding which I attended in this cave two years ago. The ballroom was decorated for the marriage in ferns and flowers, and lighted with Japanese lanterns and little candles which were fastened up everywhere among the decorations, making the room so light that it almost seemed like sunlight. Indeed, it was the prettiest and most impressive wedding that I have ever witnessed, and the enjoyment was increased by the sound of a brass band playing marches suitable for the occasion.

"After the ceremony we were conducted to another of the rooms where a table was spread with every luxury that could please the taste. In the afternoon the music began again in the ballroom, and here the guests gathered once more and danced for the remainder of the evening."

MINNIE I. JONES, Cartersville, Ga.

Now let us visit an old Maryland Manor house which, I am sorry to say, is fast dropping to pieces.

"An interesting place to visit is the historical old Calvert mansion in Riverdale, Maryland, under whose roof such eminent men as George Washington, Henry Clay and Daniel Webster have been sheltered. The building is now fast decaying. The large gardens, in which the famous Calvert oleander once bloomed, are overgrown with weeds and the stone gateposts and outbuildings are green with moss.

"The exterior of the house is very imposing. It is a long, low building with a wing at either end. An oak-shaded drive leads to the main entrance, in front of which is a circular lawn. In the center of the lawn are the remains of a once beautiful fountain. The front doors are of English oak and open upon an immense hallway on the opposite side of which are folding doors leading to the ballroom. The walls show traces of elegant paintings and woodwork elaborately carved and stuccoed. From the ballroom two doors of solid mahogany lead into the east and west drawingrooms, and we were told that it was in the latter that John Parke Custis, George Washington's stepson, wooed and won Miss Eleanor Calvert.

The remainder of the first floor is taken up by the kitchen, diningroom, library and storerooms, a wide staircase leading to the second floor where are the rooms which, in the old days, were set apart for the use of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and General Washington—all close friends of George Calvert. In one room is a chair used by George Calvert. In another is a cedar-lined wardrobe in which, it is said, the famous statesman used to hang his long-tailed coat, satin vest and knee breeches. The rooms of Washington and Webster are bare of furniture, and are uninteresting save for their historical associations.

"Next comes the garret—the very name of which suggests mystery. It is reached by a narrow,



CALVERT MANSION.

creaking stair, and in the dim half-light may be seen hair trunks, iron and brass bound chests and boxes of all kinds piled high on every side. What a treat it would be to delve into this store of ancient papers, utensils and clothing, with their memories of the long-ago; but, alas! many of the boxes have been despoiled of their contents by unscrupulous relic hunters, and those which still retain their treasures are kept securely locked.

"The house contains about forty rooms, including the wine vaults and storerooms in the cellar, and many extensive house parties have been given in the old mansion by the various colonial and historical clubs of Washington.

"I must not forget to mention the driveway leading from the house to the large, octagonal old barn. This is bordered and overhung by mock-orange trees, making a veritable 'lovers' lane,' and forming one of the most picturesque features of Calvert Place."

FREDERICK L. NEWLAND, Lucinda, Pa.

The following letter is most appropriate, coming, as it does, in the anniversary month of Whittier's birth.

NE of the most interesting monuments which the country is preserving to the memory of its famous men, is the poet Whittier's home in the village of Amesbury, Massachusetts. This house, in which the eminent writer lived for many years, is kept very much as it was when he lived there. It is owned by a niece of Whittier, but it is cared for by a company of women called the 'Whittier Home Association,' and visitors are allowed to go all over the house and see the many objects which remind one of the author's life and work.

There are two desks in the house, known as the 'old desk,' and the 'new desk,' on one or the other of which nearly all of Whittier's poems were written. There is a stout cane of oak which belonged to Barbara Freitchie, and which after her death was sent as a gift to Whittier. There is the queer old Franklin stove, before whose open front Whittier loved to sit in the winter. This stands in the room called the 'garden room,' because its two windows look out into the garden back of the house. Whittier loved this garden, and in the summer time spent much time there. In it are some great pear trees which the poet set out. In a cupboard in the house is preserved a wooden box which belonged to Whittier's sister, and which is kept just as she left it at her death. A paper is folded neatly in the bottom of the box to make it easy to clean out the dust, I think. There is some printing on the bottom side of the paper. One day I was curious to see what this printing was, and lifting up the contents of the box found out that the paper was a record of premiums awarded at the Merrimac county fair years ago, and that among other successful exhibitors at that time Whittier had taken a premium for pears. This was doubtless fruit from the trees which still flourish in the garden back of the house. Folks who remember the poet say that he would have been more proud of having raised this fruit than of all the poetry he ever wrote.

"Whittier came to this house to live with his mother and sister Elizabeth in 1836. Up to that time they lived on the farm on which he had been born. The house is on Friend Street, so called because the old Quaker Meeting House which Whittier always attended stands there. Probably the house was chosen in part because it was so near to the meeting house. It was small then, but as Whittier's means grew more abundant a room

was added here and there until now it is a large house of most irregular plan. There are many pictures in the house, some of them choice family portraits. Among these are oil portraits of Whittier's mother and sister which hang where they have hung for forty years. During the later years of his life Whittier was sometimes the guest of friends for a long while at a time, but in speaking of his home, once, when away, he said, 'My home is where my mother's picture hangs.'

MAX BENNETT THRASHER.

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MAX BENNETT THRASHER.

And now it is time for us to turn our thoughts to Christmas and its joys and duties, and here is a letter which will help us a bit in that direction.

"With the return of these bleak December days come strains of the oft-repeated chorus 'Hosanna



THE STUDY AT WHITTIER HOMESTEAD.

in the highest.' Are our heartstrings tuned to this harmony? Are we doing all we can to make this a bright Christmas for every one within our reach? Let us begin with our home and let us— young and old—reach out to see what can be done this year. Work with children more particularly perhaps than in any other sphere, requires cheerfulness of spirit—warmth of heart and interest in all their little plans.

"How well we remember the thrill of joy in our youthful hearts at the thought of Christmas. Mothers can help the children to understand the meaning of this feast, relating the story of the Christ-Child, The First Christmas-tree and the Yule-log of England, besides countless other stories of loving kindness at Yuletide.

Singing, too, tends to enliven the season. Even the songs sung by our grandmothers, 'Coaking Santa,' and 'Hang up the Baby's Stocking' are interesting and new to the little tots.

"Many people of intelligence are of the opinion that small gifts will not suffice; that one must give something of great money value or nothing. I believe in giving with the right spirit, any token of remembrance available and that happiness will surely result. There is also this bugbear idea, that for whatever we receive at this season we must give in return something exactly as good, or as valuable as the gift received. Is this the idea of giving? I do not think so.

"Sometimes a letter, an invitation to dine, fills the place of a gift; all kindnesses shown are gifts always. Thus we can see that there are various ways of giving and if we can but feel that 'giving enriches the giver' we have the right Christmas spirit and besides making ourselves happy we have been a blessing to others."

BETH BELLAMONT.

Our Lord tells us to 'Give, hoping for nothing again,' and James Russell Lowell, in his 'Vision of Sir Launfal,' tells us that

"The gift, without the giver, is bare."

and a Christmas gift, given because we feel that we must, or because some one has given to us and we feel that the same value must be returned, or because we wish to curry favor with a person, is not a gift, it is a bargain, and is in direct opposition to all the teachings of the blessed time of Christmas.

"From all (such) evil and mischief, Good Lord, deliver us."

AUNT MINERVA.

HAVE YOU CATARRH?

There is one remedy you can try without danger of humbug. Send to H. G. Colman, Chemist, 440 So-West St., Kalamazoo, Mich., for a trial package of his catarrh cure. His only mode of advertising is by giving it away.

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Distinguishing Features of the Women's Colleges.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



In point of health, discipline and curriculum there is little choice among the various seats of learning, all aims and standards ranking high; but each has some characteristic features setting a seal upon its individuality, and often influencing the new student in her selection of an Alma Mater.

Vassar impresses the observer with its strength and system in all things, its power in shaping the trend of the undergraduate mind and character without bias to individual personality. The equalizing influences discourage abnormal development and tend to turn out young women well equipped to meet the varied experiences of life that await them outside of college walls. Vassar is one of the few colleges requiring gymnasium training throughout the entire four years' course, while its four hundred acres include miles of gravel walks, an athletic field, a lake for boating and skating, golf links and tennis courts for the prescribed outdoor recreation. Its faculty represents progress and scholarly erudition, its buildings number modern dormitories, its social life covers a wide range with its clubs and societies, its formal and impromptu gayeties.

The ideal beauty of the natural surroundings at Wellesley surpass that of any of the sister colleges, and leaves its impress on the young hearts and minds in training there. It helps to make the scholar for which this institution is noted, also its charitable, sweet-natured girl. The lover of aquatic sports singles out Wellesley which offers such rare opportunities for boating on beautiful Lake Waban under the tutelage of Miss Lucile Eaton Hill, the director of physical culture and an expert oarswoman. A lovely sight comes with Float Day in June when the skilled class and college crews exhibit their good form in rowing to the thousands of spectators who line the shores and give vent to lusty enthusiasm.

Life at Smith College with its twelve hundred students is supposed to approach nearest to that of the home circle and normal conditions as the girls are allowed all the freedom possible and encouraged to cultivate social ties among the townspeople, Northampton laying claim to a delightfully refined and literary atmosphere, its public library, Home Culture Club founded by the author, George W. Cable, and its Academy of Music offering advantages in line with the tastes of the girlish collegian. President Seelye to whom much of Smith's success is due, has always advocated the thoroughly womanly woman and frowned upon any aping of the men's colleges. For this reason Smith has never had a college yell or cheer. Health, smart attire, and plenty of diversion both on and off the campus mark existence in this largest of women's colleges, though the studious girl finds a perfect intellectual Eldorado, and the impetuous one's popularity depends entirely upon herself, money not weighing in the balance.

High scholarly attainment is Bryn Mawr's keynote, its students and alumnae priding themselves on their brains and lack of feminine sentimentality. Its graduate department



A WELLESLEY CREW.

fosters this spirit, being the largest and most adequate among the women's colleges, its workers very much in earnest in their advanced study and scientific research. It is a favored college with girls blessed with this world's goods, and social doings reach heights indicating substantial resources as well as originality. Out-door sports flourish, while practice in the finely appointed gymnasium with big swimming pool is systematic.

The Woman's College of Baltimore attracts by the charm of its cordial and happy atmosphere, its able president, Dr. John F. Goucher, and up to date professors, and fine scheme of buildings, the residence halls arranged with all light, airy bedrooms, elevators, and dining halls on the top floor. Its mild climate holds inducement, also its proximity to Washington, the seat of Federal Government and to the Johns Hopkins University whose splendid medical school is open to women.

The sweet Christian spirit all-pervading at Mount Holyoke always brings there a class of students of lovely character besides fine mental calibre, who do not say much of their possible achievements but whose deeds speak for them. The wide awake corps of professors keeps the young scholars abreast of the times, while the domestic training, light as it may be, has its influence in fitting them for the home making which is the gladly accepted vocation of so many college bred women. This pioneer seat of learning has steadily advanced since its founding as a seminary by Mary Lyon some sixty-five years ago, and under its new president, Miss Mary E. Woolley, great things are predicted for its near future.

The College for Women of Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, was the first to assume the system of co-ordination in education. That means it has its own corps of professors and instructors, and is an integral part of the university on an equal footing with Adelbert College, the men's branch of Western Reserve, its graduates receiving the same university degree. As the leading woman's college of the West, where co-education reigns supreme, it draws the feminine contingent preferring the action and environment of the separate institution, yet liking the broader outlook of university connection.

Barnard College has recently adopted co-education, having been for a number of years

affiliated with Columbia University which confers upon the Barnard girls the Columbian degree, a fact proving a great drawing card. Situated in New York, the students enjoy the cosmopolitan conditions of the huge metropolis, the suburban air of the provincial being quickly rubbed off by such contact. The daily routine in Fiske Hall, the handsome dormitory, combines with studious application, gayety and good cheer, and the benefits of hearing and meeting the variety of distinguished persons constantly drawn to an educational center like Columbia.

Radcliffe affiliated with Harvard, and the Women's College with Brown University give to the women students instruction by the respective university teaching staffs, only that Brown allows them the same diploma while Harvard's president countersigns the Radcliffe sheepskin, not granting the regulation Harvard degree. However, it virtually amounts to the same thing. The girls at both these colleges experience a specific phase of the higher education, though now that they are both introducing a touch of dormitory life they will approach nearer the scope of the customary women's college.

Art Under Feet.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONE of the oldest industries and the earliest way of expressing a love of the beautiful and artistic was in the weaving of rugs in the Orient.

Nowadays the importation of these works of art form a very large part of our commerce.

The oldest carpets made of woolen threads

on linen strings were found in Egypt, but whether these were the handiwork of Egyptians or Babylonians is not known.

The Persians are probably the finest rug-weavers in the world and their oldest products date to long before Christ. Animals and hunting scenes predominate, with a few floral figures. These rugs were made not by companies, but families. Certain districts, of course, had certain styles, making perhaps the idea carried out in the rug patterns similar in each district, but no two rugs exactly alike, for individuals would express in the pattern some original thought, and possibly some occurrence or pathetic detail of the rug weaver's life would be worked into the design, as anecdotes are written into a story. Thus an oriental rug maker becomes an artist rather than an artisan. The Khorassan, Kerman, and Feraghan are probably in this class the best, and the deep blue of the old Persian rugs is probably the most valuable characteristic. The artists today are unable to produce this. Some of the products are impaired by aniline dyes, also by water-color paints which the cunning Persians employ to temporarily strengthen their coloring.

The Kerman rug is in texture very valuable. Its design is mostly of men and animals. The Shiraz rug is often woven of undyed camel's hair for a border, which makes the figures in the center stand out in rich contrast to the reddish-brown background.

The Kurds, a tribe of brigands subject to both Turkey and Persia, make a most beautiful rug, called Kourdistan. It is delicately woven in an impressionist style, perhaps with flowers as a design. They also make a beautiful, soft rug which may be washed over and over again, called Ghileems.

From the cradle of the Turkish race comes the most durable rug, called Khiva or Bokhara, which is used by them as a portiere for their tent. Turkish rugs are rarely seen with any white on them, neither do they weave men or animals into them. Their designs are usually in lines or stripes. They make their own vegetable dyes, raise and card the wool and originate the design.

Probably of all rugs the prayer-rug is most common, peculiar to Mohammedan countries. They are designed with a figure, whereon the faithful kneel, pointing toward Mecca to which their prayers go forth. The devout Mohammedan carries his rug over with him and usually a compass, so that if he lose his direction in his traveling he may be able thus to point his rug in the right direction and at the hour of prayer, kneel.

The time is arriving when the Orientals may import steam made rugs, and as the wages rise in the East will not spend their time weaving. When this comes about and the manufacture of Persian rugs is a thing of the past, then these works of art will literally be worth twice their weight in gold.

THE HIGHEST POPULARITY.

Dr. Lyman Abbott, pastor of Plymouth Church, made the remark of E. P. Roe and his novels: "I venture to say that no man, woman, or child has ever read through one of Mr. Roe's books without being bettered by the reading." "Driven Back to Eden," one of his representative books, which has been read by thousands who paid \$1.25 for it, has now been selected by the International Association of Newspapers and Authors for reissue and distribution through COMFORT. Through special arrangement with Mr. Roe's publishers the new edition is printed from the original plates. It is attractively bound in cloth, too. For authors and titles of these books and particulars of distribution see a special subscription club announcement on page 21 of this issue.

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A Fowl Invention.



THE inventive genius of a South Dakota man has put on the market a hen-roost that is warranted to prevent ambitious roosters from crowing in the middle of the night. He noticed that the fowl was always obliged to stand up in order to get a good grip on the perch when he was about to crow.

The roost was arranged so that it could be raised until the fowls were almost touching the roof. After they perched for the night the roost was raised. When the rooster tries to stand up to crow in the middle of the night he finds the roof in the way and being too sleepy to hop down, decides to postpone his musical challenge until a more seasonable time in the morning. At least, that is the way the Dakota inventor has figured things out, and what is more he claims that the plan works beautifully.

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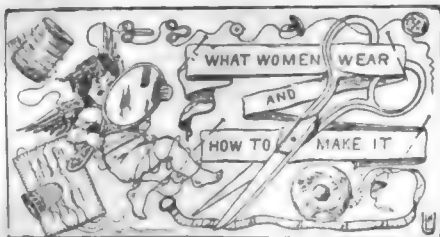
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Quadruple Plated War, or Casted Enamel Finish, will not tarnish and is so strong and durable baby or child cannot ruin it while playing with it. Handsome embossed decoration, leaves, buds, flowers, etc., hand cut and very attractive. Fancy handle just large enough for baby's hands. The above is a description of a very useful Child's Mug we can give away absolutely free and we want every prospective reader of this magazine to have one now. You could not give a child any piece of silverware that will be as useful nor used as early and often. Mugs make the best kind of birthday and Christmas gifts and if a child now has one, another will be useful sooner or later. Years ago it was a great luxury to have a gold-lined mug and only rich people could afford to have them for their children, but nowadays it is possible to make them in such immense quantities with all modern aids that we were glad to learn where to obtain them knowing how pleased our readers would be to have the opportunity of obtaining one at little cost.

Special Offer. If you will send us a club of only two trial 25c. subscriptions to this magazine we will send you the Mug as a free premium and our magazine one year to each subscriber. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE low, flat affair is immensely becoming, and so are the three-cornered hats when the face is youthful and pretty. The pagoda sleeve has a tremendous following, but the modified bishop sleeve, with a turn-back vandyke cuff is slowly edging in, while an enormous comfortable sleeve, called the dogaresse is a feature of new cloaks, and is even seen on gowns for street wear, and is copied from the mantles worn by the dogaresse of Venice.

The knot of hair in the nape of the neck has become universal, and sets one to wondering how long it will be before we are welcoming back the chignon to its old place. I wonder if basket-plaits will ever become a fashionable coiffure again. They were very neat, very orderly, and showed off glossy, abundant hair to great advantage, our mothers tell us—well, well! times change, and we with them. The standard of beauty in both face and fashion is at the mercy of a whim, and the things we admire most today will be despised next week. Individuality in dress grows daily as fashion becomes more and more important. The woman who buys her clothes as she buys her groceries, at the recommendation of the shopman, will always be at the beck and call of the slave-driver, Fashion; but the good dresser is coming more and more to exercise the dictates of her own feelings and tastes in the matter of dress and the result will be, sooner or later, an ideal philosophy of clothes.

Well-dressed women have at last come to the conclusion that for the street nothing is fit except a skirt that escapes the ground. Some of the short-skirted walking gowns which Parisiennes will wear for shopping and general wear are immensely chic. A fitting finish to this skirt is the short, natty, English box-coat, which clings just sufficiently to the figure to suggest the outlines.

One of the prettiest tea-gowns I have seen this season is an empire of black accordion-plaited silk, with a loose bolero of black lace and long sleeves of the lace finished with frills at the hand.

A stunning new model for a tailor-made gown is of mauve frieze, made with a short, fitted coat, which may be worn open or closed, the fronts faced with white satin and trimmed across with black chenille cord and buttons, and the edge faced with black velvet and a line of gold cord.

A simple but extremely smart reception gown of palest grey broadcloth has at the foot of the plain, beautifully-fitted skirt, a border of turned up points of gray velvet each outlined with a black cord and finished at the extreme point with a large black velvet button. The same idea is carried out on the blouse bodice, the bust being cut away and laid back in points, showing a smoothly fitted vest of white cloth braided with pale rose and gold. A touch of rose at the throat finishes the costume.

Walking costumes of corduroy velvet are very much worn, an especially smart one being built of drab velvet, the coat having a fairly long basque, trimmed like the skirt with stitched bands the same color as the velvet. The sleeves are arranged in large box-plaits, with flaring cuffs trimmed

with the cloth.

Evening dresses are still worn very long, with half trains for dancing. For indoor wear they rest upon the ground, and are a little shorter in front than they used to be, so that one can walk without tripping over them.

A sweetly pretty evening gown for a young girl is made of esprit net in cream white, the low bodice trimmed with stripes of white satin ribbon placed perpendicularly, about an inch



wide, and an inch apart, showing the net between and slightly pouched.

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An Odd Newspaper.



PROBABLY the most remarkable publication in the way of a newspaper that the world has ever known was the "Muse Historique." This unique paper which started in 1615 was a weekly and contained the news of the world in rhyme. It was edited by one Jacques Loret, who was also proprietor, business manager, and entire reportorial force.

Every kind of subject was treated by Mons. Loret, and in a style grave or gay to correspond with the nature of item of news. The Muse Historique was published for fifty years, but passed away with its owner, probably because nobody else cared to undertake such a laborious task.

DISAPPEARANCE OF THE DOLLAR.

Silver money melts from the pocket; paper money is "burned" for this and that, and in either case there is an aching void; disappearing dollars "make the heart sad." But it is different when the dollar disappears from the price of an article of merchandise and it thus becomes that much cheaper than expected and the dollar remains in the pocket. This happy surprise is enjoyed by those who are in the habit of paying \$1.00 or \$1.25 for copyrighted books when they find they can get the desired volume for nothing. Such is the rule in the notable distribution by the International Association of Newspapers and Authors, now going on through the Club Subscription Department of COMFORT. See announcement on page 21.

THE two sides of the human face are never exactly alike. There is often a difference in the eyes; one is stronger than the other, is out of line, or, occasionally, is of a different shade. Try it when next you sit for photographs, and have two negatives taken, one for each side of the face, and then compare the two. Even the mouth and the expression will be found to be different in the two views.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.



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SEND ONLY A LOCK OF YOUR HAIR and we mail you postpaid a 22 inch fine HUMAN HAIR SWITCH, matching sample, short stem, 2 1/2 oz., and also postage for return if unsatisfactory. If found as represented and most extraordinary value, and you wish to keep it, send us \$1.50 within ten days, or you can have it free by taking orders for 3 switches at \$1.50 each, to be paid within 10 days after switch is received. Send for one on approval. Address: MRS. AYER'S HAIR REMEDY CO., Quincy St., CHICAGO.



FUR SCARF FREE

LADIES, just think of it! This beautiful Fur Scarf FREE for a few hours' pleasant work. Send your name and address, and we will send you ten of our latest pattern, heavy solid 14K. Gold plated, hand enamelled Florentine Utility Pins, which you easily sell among your friends and neighbors at 25c each (regular price 15c each); when sold send us the \$2.50 received for them and we will send you this Fur Scarf. Remember, there is positively no deception, catch or trick about this advertisement, we mean every word we say. We require you to sell only ten—no more—of these Brooches at 25c each to earn this valuable present. It is a magnificent Cooney Fur Scarf, has 6 Brown Martini Tabs, over 48 inches long—very latest style. You will be much more than pleased and surprised to receive a valuable present for such a small sale. They look and wear as well as a Scarf costing four times as much. Our Jewelry Sells on Sight. Most of our patrons have sold all out in less than an hour and earned this magnificent premium. You take no risk, we trust you with the goods, take all back unsold, and we pay all postage on goods and premiums. Why do we do this? We know that if your friends will see this beautiful Fur Scarf and you will tell them where and how you earned it, we will obtain many new customers for our goods, and it is on future orders, where we have cost of newspaper advertising, where we expect to make our profits. Mrs. M. E. McDonald, Black River, Mich. writes: "I sold all the jewelry in 10 minutes." Mrs. H. R. Owens, 413 N. Dallas St., Baltimore, Md., writes: "I received my Fur Scarf to-day. Am very much pleased with it. My friends think it is fine. I don't see how I can afford to give such a fine present for the small amount of work." Address: 51, LOUIS FRENCH CO., 312, Robinson Place, St. Louis, Mo.



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Girls can get this beautiful Life Size Doll absolutely Free for selling only four boxes of our Great Cold & Headache Tablets at 25c each to a boy. Write to-day and we will send you the tablets by mail postpaid; when sold send us the money (\$1.00) and we will send you this Life Size Doll which is 24 feet high, and can wear baby's clothes. Dollie has an indestructible Head, Golden Hair, Rosy Cheeks, Brown Eyes, Kid Colored Body, a Gold Plated Beauty Pin, Red Stockings, Black Shoes, and will stand alone. This doll is an exact reproduction of the finest hand painted French Doll, and will live in a child's memory long after childhood days have passed. Address, NATIONAL MEDICINE CO., Doll Dept. 6 M, New Haven, Conn.



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CLUB OFFER. If you will send us 25c. and the name of one person for a year's subscription to our charming monthly magazine we will send it one year to the address thus furnished and make you a present of one of these Pearl Handle Pen Holders and Gold Plated Pen. All charges paid by us. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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The works of the popular authors above mentioned also a large number of other popular authors' best efforts are included in our new list of gift books. From an assortment of over 400 titles we have selected the most popular and desirable works of these Famous American and European Authors. Each book is printed on good quality paper, from large clear type, is 7 1/2 inches long, 5 wide and 1 3/8 inches thick and weighs one pound. Cloth Bindings are genuine Linen Cloth of several attractive and striking colors, especially made for this series. Each cover has an ornamental design as shown in illustration and the titles are all done in genuine gold and two colored ink. Each cover design is by some well-known artist and the high quality of this alone makes the outer appearance of each book at once attractive as it gives the books a club appearance for shelving or when lying on the table. Taken all in all this series of books are an excellent edition and we are pleased to have the opportunity to place them before you at this particular season of the year and at such liberal terms.

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COMFORT was started and its subscription price fixed on the basis of an 8 page paper it has been voluntarily enlarged to 12, 16 and 24 pages. When more than 12 pages are now given the subscriber can consider it a gift from the publisher.

Entered at the Post Office at Augusta, Maine, as second-class mail matter.

Published Monthly at Augusta, Maine.

Boston Office, Hancock Building.

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ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND COPIES, Each and Every Issue.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Once a year COMFORT presents to its subscribers and readers many attractive selections for quick and easily obtainable club-gifts which include articles for household use and adornment or personal use and pleasure, and we feel that we present this year many articles highly attractive and far ahead of our previous efforts and we sincerely hope that no club announcements in this issue will escape your attention and that you will not fail to partake of one or more of our particularly liberal inducements for renewals, extensions and new subscriptions to COMFORT for 1902.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT COMFORT'S FUTURE.

COMFORT now has the largest circulation of any publication of any kind anywhere and its bright title cover page brings sunshine to more American homes every month than any similar publication anywhere. Its interesting short stories and feature departments regularly entertain and amuse more people than any other publication and for the year of 1902, in addition to all that we now present regularly and in order to still further increase our subscription list, we shall run a series of continued stories. These stories will be the best effort of America's most entertaining authors who will be added to COMFORT's Editorial Staff, thus obtaining the absolute control of their productions for the exclusive presentation to COMFORT's readers. The addition of this feature of continued stories will be readily appreciated by the thousands who have read COMFORT since its first appearance fourteen years ago and who today as eagerly await the arrival of its monthly issue as ever.

NEW SPECIAL ARTICLES.

We shall also present, in addition to the continued stories, as a new feature, many special articles written exclusively for COMFORT by our former brilliant contributors whose way of presenting in attractive, concise and pithy paragraphs such articles as are of current interest to our nation which include accounts of our distinguished citizens, philanthropists, also doings at Washington, as well as new discoveries, international occurrences of note, expositions, and other news matter presented in the form of condensed information.

ORIGINAL COVER DESIGNS.

COMFORT was the first magazine in the world to present a monthly change of cover design. This was our original idea and has been maintained as a distinct feature at a large expense and for next year we have already prepared a series of colored half-tone covers and title page pictures which are reproduced from photographs of living subjects who posed exclusively for COMFORT's own artist. These beautiful half-tone pictures are each month appropriate to the season: the January cover page presents the face of a beautiful child gazing into space apparently welcoming the New Year while 1901 who passes out as an old man. February, the valentine month, has an appropriate half-tone of a cute little miss playing the piano; it is embellished in colors with valentine suggestions. April, the Easter month, presents a handsome child in a bay mow with the proud hen who has laid the Easter Egg; this is embellished with an April shower sketch which is very handsome. June, the month of roses, will be represented by a typical Summer scene and is one of the most attractive cover pages ever offered. We mention these few and you may be assured that the other months in the year are to be treated in a likewise attractive manner.

RENEWALS AND NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

At this season of the year we make the most strenuous efforts to add the greatest number of subscribers to our list. Naturally enough we are not only anxious to retain our gigantic circulation and forever maintain that COMFORT has the largest circulation of any periodical published, but add to its already great number of subscribers, and we make every honorable effort to maintain such kindly feeling with our friends and patrons as will induce voluntary renewals and additions. It is customary to present, particularly at the holiday season, an array of Household Goods that are attractive to the eye of our readers and obtain for us a canvassing representative in every town and hamlet in the United States.

The unlimited number of readers and like-

wise almost as many wants makes it necessary to present a most varied assortment of goods, in this way pleasing most any fancy or desire. In this particular issue we present several offers that are entirely new to our readers, and we most anxiously desire that you read every word of these offers carefully as they are entirely different, absolutely new departures, and positively the most liberal it was ever our good fortune to be enabled to make. Our peculiarly fortunate position as buyers in all markets, being extensive users of such a varied line of merchandise, is advantageous to ourselves but more directly to our readers who are enabled to obtain as club rewards the finest kinds of merchandise for a lesser number of subscribers than it is possible for any other publisher to require.

GREAT PAINTINGS.

On page 22 of this issue we are able to present small fac-simile pictures of a series of four great master-pieces, the work of the world's celebrated artists. COMFORT has been engaged in producing an enormous edition of these four pictures for a long time and we do not hesitate to assert, though it may seem like self-praise, that these four pictures, singly or together, are the best for universal distribution that it is possible to obtain. The subjects are varied and each one will be appreciated and it would seem that everybody would want the entire set at once and that every family would frame one or more as they certainly are attractive and ornamental. These pictures are reproduced by the most modern method known; there is even a detail in the make of the paper on which these pictures are produced that is entirely new. This feature is the canvas-like surface of that portion of the paper on which the picture is printed, giving the same effect to the eye as would a genuine oil painting on canvas. It is something never before used and its appearance in the group of COMFORT's Art Work is exclusively controlled by us. With each picture we give a short account of its painter, also description of the subject which it will not be amiss to read as these little stories better make the subject understood. We also describe their size and other details in connection with the offer for subscription work and renewals to introduce the pictures. If you are interested in your home or want appropriate Christmas gifts at a small cost, it should be your first duty to thoroughly read everything we say in connection with the pictures and the matter of obtaining them for nothing.

SPECIAL CLUB OFFERS.

Elsewhere in our columns we offer attractive and A number one premiums for incredibly small clubs of subscribers and every reader is given an opportunity to obtain crockery ware, silverware, Bibles, watches, clocks, glassware, musical instruments and novelties.

Taking all in all we affirm that we not only present the most attractive home monthly magazine but give our readers and club-raisers the most liberal rewards in the line of merchandise articles that are second to none and, regardless of all that you have enjoyed in COMFORT during the past, our efforts in the future will certainly produce a magazine of superior interest in every respect.

GREAT BOOK OFFERS.

COMFORT recently co-operated its interests with the International Association of Publishers and Authors which obtained for a limited time the privilege of using for the exclusive benefit of its readers and people generally remote from large department stores an edition of four million books embracing the works of forty authors, each of whom produce one volume. These books are absolutely new copyright stories, not reproductions from old expired copyright work, but are books that are being sold at \$1.00, \$1.25, and \$1.50 per copy, exactly the same in every particular, in the regular book stores and it is to acquaint the world with the names of these authors and through this publicity create a demand for their future efforts. As the greater number of these contributors wish to be known to what we call "bookworms" you will see that it is to their advantage to waive all their royalties and other profits as the future editions of their books will be sought at most any price. A full description of the books, binding and our distributing plan appears on another page of this issue and is without question an unprecedented opportunity, as you are allowed to return the first book which is sent on inspection if it does not prove to be all that we represent it.

ONLY 25c. PER YEAR.

The regular and only subscription rate of 25c. per year slightly over 2c. per month will be maintained as before. We expect as a result of the improvements to obtain sufficient revenue to even do more than we have planned and appropriated for which happy result will without doubt reward our endeavors and you will receive a magazine equal in value to those whose subscription rate is \$1.00 per year or 10c. per copy.

YELLOW SUBSCRIPTION BLANKS.

If you receive a yellow subscription blank with your paper this month you will know that either your subscription has expired or is about to expire or that you are especially invited to extend your own subscription or secure a club from one to a dozen new subscribers. You will notice we give in this issue an unlimited assortment of club gifts for home and personal use for the very smallest number of subscribers. All expiring names will be removed if not renewed within thirty days.

TO OUR OLD AND NEW FRIENDS.

We hope you have always found pleasure and profit in the columns of COMFORT as a regular reader, and if you are a trial subscriber we hope you have been pleased with the measure we have given in the past and we are frank enough to ask you, plainly, to please renew your subscription this month as we cannot promise to continue the offers here given indefinitely and we would like you to share in the good things with our other subscribers. Certainly at this season of the year everyone is planning on spending more or less for Christmas gifts and surely everyone is repaid in some way for the prosperous circumstances and conditions that our great nation is enjoying. We never hear of hard times, small crops, big failures, on the contrary everyone is busy and happy and prosperous to a degree never before even imaginable and the actual reality of our success is felt in

the pulse-beat of every reader and prospective readers of COMFORT in this great wide round world.

HOPE YOU WILL RENEW.

But in our closing remarks, if we are not to be in further correspondence with you or have the pleasure of your subscription for another year, we will heartily wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous year for 1902, the second of this Century, and we hope that it may develop as the months roll by many many occurrences of good fortune for you.

EDITORIAL CHATS.

The opening of a new Congress is always interesting to the American people. December is the time when Washington really wakes up and the wheels of government begin to turn.

The Society of American Women in London is a comparatively new club but one that has done much to convince the English people of the all around ability of American women. Ambassador Choate declared that they had recently held the most notable function ever held in London.

There is a touch of savagery in our wholesale indiscriminating admiration of what we consider bravery. Unfortunately we are apt to consider the man brave who is only reckless. There are many people who are not candid enough or brave enough to say "I am afraid." The man who says that, feels it, but goes on, unhesitating to perform the act that his reason tells him is necessary as the really brave man. He has conquered himself and that is an act that even the best sometimes fail to accomplish.

The journalists of America are to have a home all to themselves. This is not a charity but a place where the worker who has kept the world supplied with the facts of the daily battle may rest. It is located in New Orange, a suburb of New York. The newspaper people aim to have one of the finest libraries in the world at this home; to have rooms where the busy ones may work in quiet, and rooms where those whose usefulness is over may be comfortable. It is the only place of its kind in the world and will supply a long felt need.

The parlor car travel during the holiday season is said to be a good thermometer of the financial condition of the country. This year the demand for luxurious accommodations exceeds the limit of the possible supply. Every one is rich enough to go home and to go in good style. The man or woman may economize all the year but when the face is turned toward the old home, human nature asserts itself. We wish to show in that most difficult of lands, our "ain countrie", that the world beyond the hills has dealt kindly with us. For this reason all the parlor car seats and sleepers will be filled with those seeking holiday joys.

The American people have been so busy in welcoming the coming, speeding the parting Irish guest who came after "the cup" that they seem to have forgotten an old trait of human nature. We have hardly had time to congratulate Columbia. In fact all the bouquets and ribboned wreaths have been for the defeated. We have all been like Whittier's little heroine who was "sorry that I spelt the word, I hate to go above you, because, the brown eyes lower fell, because, you see I love." This may be courtesy but it is certainly not sport. The surest way to rob all future contests for the cup of any element of sport or excitement is to put ourselves in the attitude of sighing for defeat.

An institute for the study of the Russian language has been established in London. We have established a chair for the study of the Chinese language. Both those difficult languages are now necessary in a thorough commercial education. The future history-making events may be looked for through the Slav and the Mongolian. It is these two races that are the only ones that are not traced back to the Aryan. The Celt, the Teuton and the Anglo-Saxon have dominated the history of the world. It is a significant fact when the aggressive commercialism of the Anglo-Saxon forces him to endeavor to acquire the languages of the two great nations that seem to be relics of outgrown ideas of government.

Andrew Carnegie has developed and extended the library craze within the last decade. Libraries, books, authors and readers have increased at a rate that is simply phenomenal. The more conservative portion of the people are led to wonder if a thinking public is keeping pace with a reading public. The passion for reading seems to have broken all bounds and whether on street cars or traveling, in city, town or lonely farmhouse the average American seems absorbed in a newspaper, magazine or book. Language may have been given to many to conceal his thoughts, as the wicked and witty old Frenchman asserted, but the written language seems to be developing the faculty of deadening thought. Reading is becoming a narcotic rather than a stimulant. The old command to "read, learn, and inwardly digest" has been subject to the modern process of elimination and we "read" only. We are in danger of losing all simplicity and vigor of thought by the enervating process of excessive reading. The mind of the public might regain a healthy tone by being subjected to a mental fast. We shall lose our eyes, our ears,

and our voices through lack of exercise. We are too subjective, no not even that, our minds are becoming thoroughfares through which all the beggars of the written words are allowed to pass. Think more, read less!

A representative of our government has just gone to France to examine the details of mushroom culture, with the idea of developing the industry in the United States. There is a growing interest and knowledge of the wild edible fungi of America but it is still too limited to be of any great practical value to the poorer people of the country. The French peasant understands fully the food value of mushrooms and is taught to know the edible varieties. With us the taste for mushrooms as a food is confined almost entirely to cities, and the markets are furnished from the mushrooms grown in cellars. A few women have succeeded in establishing a business through the culture of a few varieties. The demand is so far in excess of the supply that the price is still high enough to class mushrooms as a luxury. This, in spite of the fact that the process and growth is comparatively inexpensive. It is hoped that this visit to France may increase our knowledge so that the growth of mushrooms may become a considerable industry. The use of those that grow wild should be taught in the schools. The characteristics of certain edible varieties are so marked that a knowledge of the mushroom is quickly obtained. The poisonous kind is yet more easily distinguished. Any attempt to extend a knowledge of this delicious food should be encouraged.

Men seem to have awakened to an overwhelming discontent with the way the Lord has separated the land from the water on this earth. The commerce of today is upsetting political conditions and is no longer content with physical ones. The English have never been able to bring Ireland near to England politically but now there is a demand for physical nearness. A tunnel is proposed which shall connect Scotland and Ireland at a point where the two coasts lie within about twenty-five miles of each other. It is claimed that the tunnel could be constructed in twelve years and at a cost not to exceed \$50,000,000. It is hoped that the isthmian canal which shall connect the Atlantic and the Pacific may be constructed in less than that time. A list of the canals, tunnels and dams that are altering the physical appearance of the earth would awaken wonder at the vast undertakings that have sprung from the necessities of man's life upon the earth. Man may confidently be said to have conquered his environment. When he has tunneled and dug and tore up mother earth until she will have to establish her identity by means of the old nursery rhyme, "If I be I, as I hope I be," he may turn his attention to reaching other worlds. The airship that has sailed around the Eiffel Tower has certainly proven that the a, b, c's of aerial navigation have been successfully conquered. If man overcomes the air with the same advance he has shown in dealing with the limitation that the physical surface of the earth has endeavored to impose, he will be visiting Mars and the Moon before the end of the century.

The discussion over the possibilities of a change in the tenor of government because of a change in the personality of our chief executive is most prevalent just at the opening of the new congress. The general public and the press seem to ignore one important fact. The choice of a Speaker of the House is far more important in its possible effect on legislation than the fact that President Roosevelt instead of President McKinley stands at the head of the nation. The unwritten authority which precedent has given to the Speaker of the House of Representatives makes him in many ways the most powerful factor in our law making. He is conceded to be next to the President in influence and he is actually in possession of more direct power. This power of the Speaker was probably not intended by the makers of the constitution. It is not even necessary by the provisions of that document, that the Speaker be a member of the House. The constitution states that the House may appoint its speaker and other officers. The "other officers" are never members of the House but custom has decreed that the Speaker shall be and the same custom has thrown into the hands of this one man an almost absolute control over the possible legislation of the nation. The House is divided into at least forty committees. All of the topics likely to be subjects for legislation are given a committee. The Speaker appoints these committees. They must be bi-partisan but the party in power always has the majority in all important committees. If the Speaker has any personal views concerning a law it is easy for him to choose a committee that will be in sympathy with him. All bills that come before the House must first pass through the hands of a committee in order to gain a hearing before the House as a whole. The power thus given the Speaker is one of vast importance and he can literally prevent the policy of any President from being carried out by the process of committee making. The tendency in modern government is toward the gain of power by the legislature at the expense of the executive authority, and our government furnishes the most marked illustration of this.

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O FOR THE DEAR, DEAR FACES.

WORDS AND MUSIC BY MRS. CHARLOTTE ROBINSON CHIDSEY.

Andante.

1. O, for the dear, dear fa - ces, those fa - ces heav'n - ly
 2. O, for the sound of those footsteps, foot - steps of long a -

sweet, Oft touch'd with ten - der pl - ty, Oft wreath'd in smiles to greet. O, for the gen - tle voi - ces I
 go I hear them in the twi - light hour, Pass - ing soft and low. Could I but lin - ger once a - gain A -

knew so well of yore, I seem to hear them lov - ing, kind, Call - ing me ev - er - more; Then in the gen - tle
 round the old, old place, And hear a sweet voice from with - in So soft - ly sing - ing Sweet songs that tell of

twi - light gray, When eve - ning sha - dows fall, They seem to mur - mur pa - tience,
 rest and home, Sweet songs of peace and love. O, it were but a joy too

dear, God watch - es o - ver all.
 great, for aught but heav'n a - bove.

3. Time flug - 'ring pass - es slow - ly on, Shall I see heav'n's bright por -

After 2nd verse.

tal O - pen on that hap - py morn and those fa - ces dear im - mor - tal? The an - swer com - eth clear and

sweet, Child, thou need'st not fear it, He that ev - er faith - ful is shall all things in - her - it.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

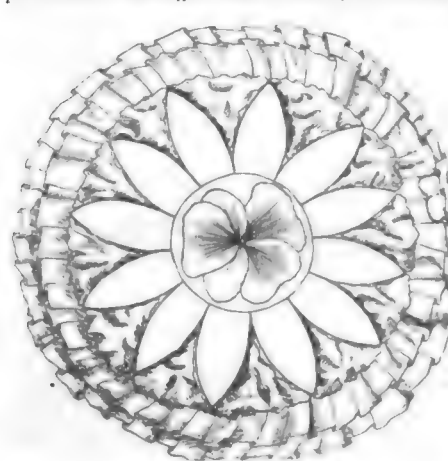


THE hope of being able to give our readers something novel for Christmas ideas has been with us constantly, but we find it early for the sale of Christmas goods, as they are not put on sale until a month later than COMFORT goes to press, so we are reduced to two really new ideas in the fancy work line.

But if our readers are inclined to do things in burnt wood and leather, another field is opened up to them in Pyrography. We give an article with illustrations in another column on this new and delightful art.

Now for our own illustrations. The sofa pillow is very handsome and very elaborate,—not such a one as you would use in the Den, but for so-called "parlor" use, or, more properly speaking, decoration.

There are several designs of this cushion, among them being the holly wreath, the La France rose, the violets, nasturtiums, wild roses, and pansies. The cushions are round. There are front and back pieces of linen, cut as shown in our illustration, the edges of the points being bound in green braid. On the piece designed for the front, the center is embroidered in whatever design is chosen. We chose the pansy design, working the flower in the purple silks. The China silk used in making the cushion up is of two shades of purple, light and dark. A ruffle or broad puff of each shade is put around the edge of the cushion, the outer one



PANSY PILLOW.

being wider than the inner one. Then between the points of the linen center, pieces of the silk are set in, very full, so that they puff out between the points. It is a difficult cushion to make, but one is more than repaid for the amount of work put into it, for it is so odd and striking.

Those decorated with violets are made up either with violet silk or with green silk. The rose design is made up with pink silk, the holly with red silk, and the nasturtium with deep orange and yellow silks. These cushions retail for \$13.50, all made. The front and back can be bought for one dollar, and it takes a dollar's worth of silk to embroider any one of the designs. Then there is the cost of the pillow and the China silk besides.

What we call a "comfortable" pen wiper is our other offering, by which we mean one easily handled without soiling the hands, and one not easily lost.

The foundation is a round stick about as large as a pencil, and four inches long. This is wound with two colors of narrow satin ribbon in the manner shown, forming squares. The ribbon ends in a flat rosette on the end of the stick, which is the beginning of the base of the pen wiper. Then fifteen leaves measuring about two and one-half inches long by one and one-half inches wide are cut from soft chamomile skin and pinked around the edges. These leaves are sewed to the stick in such a manner as to spread out flat, to allow the pen wiper to stand up. They are sewed on evenly around the stick, fastening to the ribbon with which the stick is wound. To cover where the top and last row of leaves is fastened to the stick, a piece of the ribbon is tied around the stick and finished with loops and ends.

The cost of such a pen wiper is thirty-eight cents, but one could make half a dozen for that price, as only one leaf would be needed and about one yard of each color of ribbon, for each pen wiper. The ribbon bought by the piece would bring the cost down, if several were to be made. Some of those we saw were made with yellow and purple ribbon, some with gold and black and some with pink and green.

Now for some answers to questions by our readers. E. S. M. of South Bend wants to know how to wash elder down quilts. Make a good lather of soap jelly (boiled soap) and warm water, and add to it a little borax or ammonia.

Into this put the quilt and knead it about; repeat the process in fresh suds if very soiled. Then rinse all the soap out with two or three changes of water, shake and hang out to dry. During the drying and afterward, shake the quilt well, and it will be as full looking and soft as when new.

Another anxious inquirer wants to know how to develop her neck. To fill the troublesome hollows on each side of the collar bone a system of deep breathing is invaluable. Take a deep breath, hold it as long as possible, and then exhale it very slowly. Repeat this ten times. Do this twice a day. As it is absolutely essential that the muscles should be developed, the following exercises must become a part of one's daily routine:

Slowly bend the head forward till the chin touches the neck. Then raise it very gradually. Slowly bend the head backwards and raise it again.

Bend sideways to right and left. All these movements should be repeated ten or fifteen times, and when you have done this you will feel that every muscle in your throat and neck is aching. Then bathe the throat and neck in hot water. Dry thoroughly, and well massage in any good cold cream, rubbing it in with the tips of the fingers till the skin has absorbed it all, and your neck is in a glow. With a soft rag or towel wipe off any cream that may remain. The massaging should be done with a rotary motion.

Now dampen a soft rag or sponge, moisten the throat and neck with benzoin and rose-water, which is a skin tonic, and helps to close the pores and so prevents dirt from entering.

In the morning wash with warm water and a good soap or almond meal, rinsing and thoroughly bathing afterward with the very coldest water you can get. It is also well to add lavender water or toilet vinegar to the water.

Then, before finishing dressing, go through the exercise in the same way as you did the previous evening.

Chinese Printing.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THOUGH the art of printing as practiced by us now was not discovered until the fifteenth century, the Chinese have been making books for a considerably longer period. Foong Taow, so the account reads, who was the Chinese minister of state somewhere back in the tenth century, is said to be the inventor of their method of printing. He was greatly hindered in the discharge of his duties because he could not secure good accurate copies of his writings. After many trials and failures he hit upon the plan of dampening a sheet of writing. This was pressed upon a smooth piece of wood and a transfer taken. He then

cut away all the parts of the wood that were not inked by the writing, leaving the lines in relief. These lines were inked, a paper pressed upon them, and thus an impression was taken. In 1041 an ingenious Chinese blacksmith named Pi-Ching invented types made of porcelain. These were all sorts of shapes and sizes, but were arranged in lines and then pressed into a yielding composition until they were of a uniform height. As the composition hardened they were held firmly in position. After use the composition base was melted, and the porcelain types were cleaned and put away. Pi-Ching, however, was the only one able to use this method of bookmaking, which died with him.

The present Chinese method of printing is practically the same as that used by Foong Taow. The printer takes a block of pear-wood large enough to hold two pages of the book to be printed. The blocks, after being planed and squared are sized with a thick solution of rice, and when this is hard the block is ready for the engraver. The writing or design is transferred from the sheet of paper upon which it is drawn to the block. The engraver then cuts away the surface of the blocks everywhere but where the lines occur, thus leaving them in relief. If a mistake is made or the tool slips a hole is bored in the block at that point, a plug is inserted, and a new letter engraved.

Labor is of course very cheap in China, and skilled workmen are plentiful and for this reason it is possible to make books there by a method that would be out of the question in our western civilization on account of the time and labor necessary. A large engraving that costs in China the modest sum of forty-five cents to produce was found to cost thirty-five dollars when imitated by a competent New York wood-engraver.

A daily newspaper, known as the Pekin Gazette, has been printed in China for centuries. It consists chiefly of the orders of the emperor and the proceedings and papers of his general council. A composition of hard wax is used instead of wood for the pages of the Gazette, as this substance is of course easier to engrave.

After the block is finished it is ready for the printer. No press is used. Instead the operator has a double brush, one end of which is used for inking while the other end is dry. The block is first brushed over lightly with ink and a sheet of thin paper is laid over it. The operator then brushes the back of the paper

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with the dry side of the brush, which causes the ink on the block to transfer to the paper. The paper is then folded so that the printed pages come opposite one another and thus two pages of the book are made. Two thousand sheets a day is about what one man can do. When the sheets are all printed and folded back the ends at the back of the book are stitched together, the fold coming in front. This of course is exactly the reverse of our method. The first Chinese books were printed upon cloth, cotton or silk, and in order to keep the leaves from fraying the method was adopted of leaving this fold in front.

One of the principal reasons why the Chinese have never resorted to printing by means of moveable types is that it would be almost impossible on account of the peculiarities of the language. In Chinese every word is represented by a different character, and as the words in the Chinese vocabulary are estimated to be at least eighty thousand in number the difficulties are very apparent. In order to provide for all these characters five hundred times as much room would be required as is occupied in the storing of an English alphabet, which requires one hundred and fifty-two different compartments.

The National Printing office at Paris once had a collection of forty-three thousand Chinese characters, and other offices have had enough made to print special books; but a complete outfit of Chinese letters has never yet been made.

In spite of the seeming slowness and clumsiness of Chinese printing methods, books in China are very cheap. It is possible there to buy a book for eight or ten cents equal in size to books sold in America for ten times that amount. Certainly if the Chinese have not advanced it is not because their printing matter is expensive or scarce, but rather, no doubt, because of the contents of their books.

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Enclosed find subscription money; please send me the silk remnants for crazy work for premium. Last year I sent you and got as many as 18 packages. You sent me nice large pieces. I will order again soon. I remain as ever, your subscriber.
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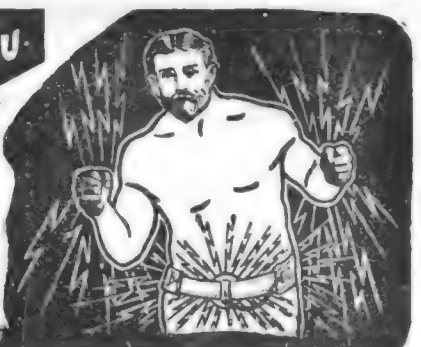
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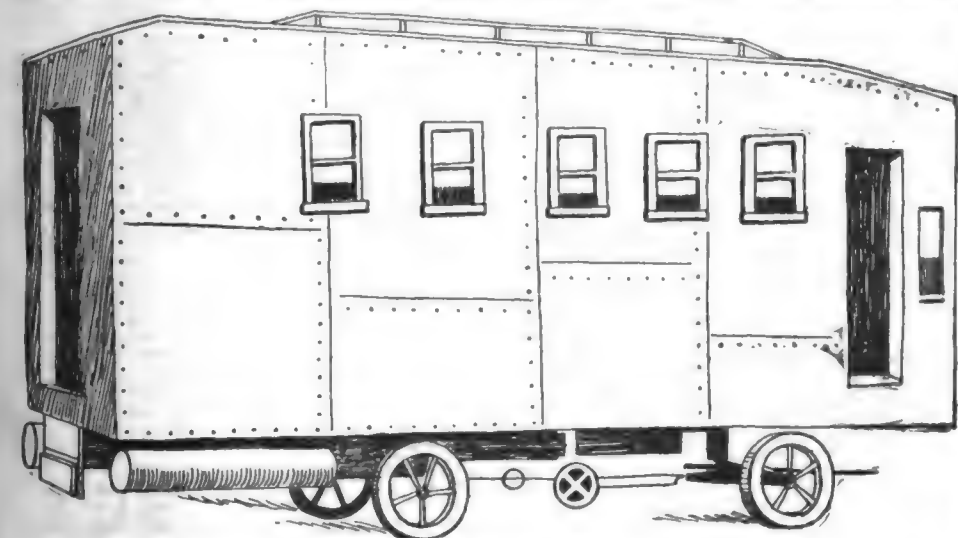


BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

KING Edward has been an enthusiastic champion of the bicycle for years. Now he has had the finest automobile in the world made for him. A correspondent says:

"I was fortunate in finding the manager of M. Serpollett's establishment, and he kindly told me one or two things regarding the most important order the firm has yet received. The vehicle now being made for His Majesty will be a nine-horse-power Gardner-Serpollett phaeton, light and elegant, and capable, should the king be in a hurry, of getting over the ground at the rate of fifty miles an hour. It is a slightly reduced model of the twelve-horse-power carriage with which M. Serpollett at Nice did one hundred and two kilometres (over sixty-three miles) in an hour, the greatest speed yet attained by an automobile. It is to be the finest 'voiture de luxe' ever constructed. It will have accommodations for four persons, and the motive power will be supplied by paraffine. The motion of the car will be smoother than that of an electric vehicle; it will be noiseless and odorless, and there will be a total absence of vibration. 'In fact,' said the manager, 'it is just as if one were seated in an arm chair, a circumstance that has led to the Serpolletts being called by our customers "les Silencieuses".' "Nearly all the metal parts of the carriage are of the finest steel, and the body of the vehicle painted red. It is an open carriage, but so constructed that it can be closed in bad weather, and cost about six hundred or six hundred and fifty pounds. His Majesty takes a great interest in his new motor-car, and gave personal directions concerning the plans of the royal automobile."

The smallest "auto" in the world was at the Pan American Exposition and was the property of Chiquita, the Cuban atom of humanity,



AUTOMOBILE HOUSE IN CHICAGO.

who was said to be the official Pan American mascot. It is an exact miniature of a full-grown electric victoria, perfect in all its appointments. Chiquita's automobile is operated by electricity, and with the batteries charged and in position, weighs two hundred and twenty-five pounds. It runs fifteen hours at an average speed of ten miles an hour. In everything it is complete, from electric side-lights and alarm gong down to the tiny card case.

The body is dark green in color, with running gear of vermilion, nickel-plated wheels and pneumatic tires twelve inches in diameter. The seat is eighteen inches long, and the forward wheels are eight inches in diameter. With the top raised it does not come up to a man's elbow, and is apparently only a pretty toy. Despite its smallness, however, the machine is a practical road vehicle.

In order that the chauffeur might be in keeping with the size of the machine, Chiquita secured a negro dwarf and had him taught the art of running the smallest "auto" ever built.

A novelty in the line of automobiles is to be seen in the accompanying cut which is a picture of a steam-driven automobile designed and built by George Washington, a resident of Chicago. A paper of that city describes the strange vehicle as follows:

It is a traveling van propelled by a forty horse-power gasoline motor, and is intended for its owner and his wife during their wanderings about the country. An old street car has been rebuilt for the body of the house, to which are added an observation and operating platform at the front end, surrounded by large windows, and a porch in the rear. The machinery is mounted on a heavy steel frame, the whole weighing about four tons. Although no great success attended Mr. Washington's efforts to navigate in the new craft he believes

that when he has put ten-inch tires on it, with teeth to them to catch the ground, it will be a success.

What a difference between the bike of 1882 and the bike of 1902! The now obsolete Columbia Light Roadster marked the era between 1882 and the advent of the Safety. Every essential of the perfection of its type was combined in this machine, and not a few of the older devotees of the sport who have followed the bicycle through all its fluctuations associate the "good old Ordinary" with their most pleasant reminiscences. From its inception until its final capitulation in competition with the unpretentious safety, such improvements as were made from year to year were merely in the line of slight modifications in weight. If we acknowledge that the high grade models of the coming year are as near perfection as is possible to the type, and with an unimportant reservation affecting slight details the quality between the two is emphasized.

Perhaps the best example of a modern bicycle to choose as the parent of our matured idea was the safety of 1889 with spring front fork and cushion tire.

Then the Dunlop pneumatic tire created a genuine sensation in England, but was not long a curiosity in America where its fame had preceded it. It was a bit of favorite humor with the first riders to adopt the innovation, to advise those of more cautious inclination never to try the pneumatic until they were ready to renounce their former faith. Nowadays the fine de sicle model constructed for a solid rubber tire would be worth its weight in junk and no more.

Every important feature has been carried to opposite extremes in order to obtain the happy medium, and possibly with an ulterior motive of keeping the public curiosity whetted by constantly changing fashions. But now there is no longer need to perpetuate that expensive custom of adopting a radically different design

every year, and marking wheels a scant year old down to bargain prices. Evolution has been toward uniformity, and the almost universal use of one-inch tubing next year may be taken as the final step in the abandonment of extremes, rather than as part of a mistaken policy which present close margins of profit prohibit.

Progress is comparative, and it would be rank injustice to that beautiful little machine which can be seen any pleasant day in spring led from the store by its proud owner, or carried from curb to curb to avoid soiling its clean gray tires, to trace its genealogy to a crude and clumsy hobby horse, sans pedals and cranks, which men bestrode a century ago.

Here are some excellent maxims to be remembered:

The modern chainless bicycle is the desideratum. It is a combination of utility, beauty, economy and vitality. Its noiselessness, its simple mechanism, its graceful lines, inspire the rider and please the spectator.

Every fresh excursion a wheel reveals new beauties in nature, the fleeting glimpses of which tempt a farther pursuit away from the beaten track, where even more picturesque "bits" are discovered which fully repay the trouble of the divergence.

Let every man have his mind fully made up, and when investing in a bicycle by all means select a good one. In this, as in perhaps no other commodity, "The best is the cheapest."

Power applied to the pedals of a bicycle of any type necessarily results in a strain upon the frame and a tension upon its joiners. In a chain-driven bicycle this strain is necessarily uneven and in a sense intermittent, and has the effect of a series of blows. In the bevel-gear bicycle, the tension is even and distributed. Considered what the bicycle is, it will stand

a tremendous amount of abuse, but its length of serviceable life still depends very much upon the watchful regard and attention of its owner. Bad adjustments cause improper strains and may result in disastrous breakage; want of lubrication leads to destructive gear.

Mud should be removed from the frame while still damp, as after it becomes dry and hard, its removal is liable to cause injury to the enamel. When it has been allowed to harden upon the enamel, a wet carriage sponge may be advantageously used in getting it off.

Do not allow oil to collect on the enamel, as in time it will affect it; neither should oil be allowed to touch the tires. Do not use oil lavishly. Little and often is a good rule.

The traveler by wheel is independent; he is not answerable to the demands of the general public, nor subjected to the delays of annoyances through the instability of equine soundness or health.

Every rider who wishes to have his or her machine perform its full ratio of useful work should be able to tell when it is in good running order, and know what to do to maintain it in such order.

If you add a little salt to the water you use in your acetylene lamp it will have a tendency to prevent freezing and possibly save you considerable annoyance.

Don't ride a wheel for the ostensible purpose of seeing how many miles of road you can cover in a given time. Ride because it is a means of healthful, exhilarating and joyous pleasure, and you will never regret it.

Next to disputing the right of way with a railway train one of the most dangerous things a rider can do is to coast with a brakeless bicycle.

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Some Odd Water-Birds.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Just the contrary is the case. One species that is fondest of the water is a little songster belonging to the thrush family, and called the dipper or water-ousel. This species is widely distributed, but is usually found in the vicinity of swiftly-flowing mountain streams. Here it darts in and out of rapids, pools and waterfalls with perfect fearlessness and great apparent enjoyment, in search of food. An instance is recorded of a pair of dippers that built their nest under a waterfall, in the vacant space behind where the waterfall leaped from the rock above, and in this strange place successfully raised their brood of young.

While in the water the ousel uses its wings in the same manner as when flying, and thus makes very rapid progress. Their wings being short and broad are well adapted for this use, the tail is very short and the whole body is covered thick with soft down, which thoroughly protects the bird from the water.

On the approach of an enemy the ousel always dives and runs along the stream for yards before coming up to breathe. Even the young birds will do this with the greatest confidence.

Sometimes a bird that is not strictly an aquatic bird becomes one in a case of emergency. An instance is related of a king-fisher that was attacked by a king-bird. He started to fly, but was no match for his persistent little tormenter while in the air, so he dove under water, only coming up to float on the surface and then dive again, and in this way escaped.

Another curious bird is the Chinese yacana or water-pheasant, which is almost as much at home under the surface of the water as on the shore. The yacana has long legs and very long toes, which enable it to walk on the pads of lily or lotus that grow near the shore where it finds its food. When searching for food or on the approach of danger the yacana slips under water and walks along the bottom of the stream. When it wishes to conceal itself it makes its way to where the pads are thickest, and thrusting its bill above the surface is enabled to remain in this position indefinitely.

The water-hen, a cousin of the yacana is another bird that is quite at home under water, but does not seem bright enough to adopt the yacana's method of breathing when hiding, and is therefore sometimes drowned. Cases have been known where a water-hen, on being wounded by a hunter, has dived to the bottom of a stream and seizing a tough weed in its bill has held on until death came to prevent being captured.

Another bird with similar habits is the grebe. It is an excellent swimmer and diver and has the same habit the yacana has, of hiding under water, with its bill thrust up above the surface, until danger is over.

The water-hen makes up for its stupidity while under water for the skill it displays in nest building. The nest is placed near the water's edge, but so nicely is the distance calculated that it is seldom flooded by high tides or freshets. A story is told of a pair of water-hens that had a nest with the eggs in it nearly hatched, when an unexpected rise of the water threatened to flood their home. They at once set to work, and by building up underneath, succeeded in raising the nest out of harm's way.

The snake-bird is a Florida bird that swims with only its long neck above the surface, a peculiarity that gives it the appearance of a large snake in the water. We are told that when collecting food for its young the bird swallows the fish it captures, and then the young bird runs its bill down the old one's neck and swallows the fish for its own dinner.

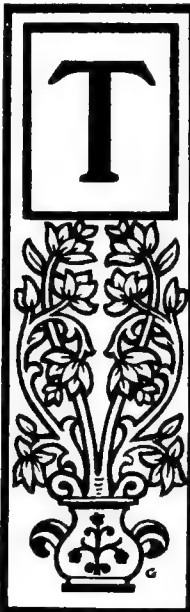
The guillemont, which is sometimes, though incorrectly called a loon, is another aquatic bird that has some interesting habits. The guillemont lays only one egg on the bare cliffs of the nesting-ground. When the young are ready to launch out, the guillemont takes the chick on its back, and flying beyond the breakers to the smooth water, drops the youngster

off, quickly dropping beside it to defend it from the rapacious gulls that are always on the alert to snatch the young bird for a meal. The little guillemonts soon become able to care for themselves however.

Instances of curious water-birds could be multiplied indefinitely, and in fact the whole subject of the habits of our friends of fur, fins, and feathers, as animals, birds and fishes have been called is one of the rarest interest to all Nature lovers.

Wood-Engraving.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE art of wood-engraving is very old, older by some two hundred years than the art of printing. The first use of engravings of any sort of which we have any record are the stamps which the ancient Egyptians used to impress upon bricks. These stamps were made of stone with the inscription cut upon them in high relief, and they were used by the ancient builders in stamping the bricks in the process of making which were used in ancient buildings. Some of these bricks have come down to us at the present day, and there are some specimens of them in the British Museum. Later it became customary to use a sort of engraved stamp for signing documents. Pope Adrian and Charlemagne were among the first known possessors of stamps of this sort.

These early engravings of course were not wood-engravings, but they probably furnished the idea for wood-engravings. The Chinese have for many centuries printed books from blocks engraved on wood, and still use this method at the present day. The first wood-engravings we know anything about among European nations were used by the German playing-card makers, who used to manufacture their wares by this method. Later whole books were made from engraved blocks and are now known as block-books. Religious prints were also issued in considerable numbers, most of them very wide specimens indeed.

With the invention of movable types block-books became a thing of the past, and for a time the art of engraving fell into disuse, but soon the demand for illustrations caused a revival of the art, which began to enjoy a popularity greater than ever before. The engravings of this period were extremely crude, with little or no artistic merit. In the 16th century an engraver by the name of Durer began to produce work that was far better than anything of the kind that had preceded him. After Durer however the art fell into disuse again until it was revived by an English engraver, Bewick by name, whose work, compared with that of his predecessors was truly wonderful. Even today the lover of wood-engravings finds a great deal to admire in Bewick's work. Bewick lived to a ripe old age and during his life time produced thousands of fine illustrations. From Bewick's time until within a few years wood-engraving flourished, as it was the only way known for

Cures Goitre

A well-known Cincinnati physician has discovered a remedy that cures Goitre or Thick Neck. And to prove this he sends a free trial package so that patients may try and know positively that Goitre can be cured at home. Mrs. Ellen A. Glaynor, Covington, Ky., was cured after suffering for 28 years; if you wish you are at liberty to write to her. Send your name and address to Dr. John P. Haig, 3142 Glenn Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio, telling him your age, size and location of the goitre and how long you have had it, and he will forward a trial treatment by return mail, postage prepaid.



MRS. ELLEN A. GLAYNOR.

WONDERFUL \$3.75 FOLDING CAMERA.

mar camera, complete with lens, shutter, one double plate holder, leather covered carrying case and book of instructions. If you do not find it exactly as represented, perfectly satisfactory in every way and book of instructions, self at from \$5.00 to \$10.00, you can return it to us at our expense of express charges both ways and we will immediately return your \$3.75. THE DELMAR FOLDING CAMERA takes pictures 4 1/2 x 6 1/2 inches. It is made of the best selected material throughout, of solid mahogany piano finish wood and lacquered finished brass. High grade red leather bellows, the whole covered with a fine black seal grain leather. It is provided with spring actuated ground glass focusing screen and accurate focusing scale, rising and falling front, enabling the operator to control the relative amounts of sky and foreground.



THE DELMAR is the very latest style for 1908, for camera, as above and complete developing outfit is a price based on the actual cost of material and labor with but our one small percentage of profit added, less than one-half the prices charged by others. **ORDER TODAY. DO NOT DELAY.** Enclose our price. **WE FURNISH FREE** with the Delmar Camera a handsome leatherette carrying case, 110-page instruction book, which teaches beginners how to take, develop and finish all kinds of pictures. It also comes complete with lens, and shutter and one double plate holder. **THE DELMAR** is the very latest style for 1908, for camera, as above and complete developing outfit is a price based on the actual cost of material and labor with but our one small percentage of profit added, less than one-half the prices charged by others. **ORDER TODAY. DO NOT DELAY.** Enclose our price. **WE FURNISH FREE** with the Delmar Camera a handsome leatherette carrying case, 110-page instruction book, which teaches beginners how to take, develop and finish all kinds of pictures. It also comes complete with lens, and shutter and one double plate holder.

IT IS LIGHT, SIMPLE AND DURABLE, one of the Handsomest Cameras Made. **IT MEASURES, CLOSED,** 2 1/2 x 3 3/4 x 6 1/4 INCHES, and weighs 24 ounces. **OUR \$1.20 DEVELOPING OUTFIT.** To those who wish a complete picture developing outfit and material, we furnish for \$1.20 the following goods and supplies, the equal of any you could buy elsewhere at double the price. If you wish the developing outfit at \$1.20 extra, be sure to so state and enclose amount when ordering. Our big \$1.20 developing outfit contains: 1 Metal Dark Room Lamp, 1 Jar of Fixer, 1 Printing Frame, 8 Trays for Developing, 1 Package Toner, 1 Print Roller, 1 Toning and Fixing, 1 Package Hypo, 1 Package Dry Plate, 1 Graduated, 1 Package Developer, 1 Package Fixer, 12 Card Mounts.

AT OUR SPECIAL \$3.75 PRICE you get this camera for less than dealers can buy in dozen lots. At 46 cents extra each we will furnish extra plate holders fitted with the very best quality of hard rubber slides.

Understand, if the camera is not perfectly satisfactory

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

making illustrations for books and papers, except steel or copper engraving which of course were far too expensive for ordinary work. Wood engravers became very skillful, as the demand for their services increased, and some of the publications of fifteen or twenty years ago contain some beautiful specimens of their work. In order to complete large illustrations quickly it was customary to divide the large block upon which the drawing was made into a number of small pieces which were given to different workmen, and the whole was afterwards (CONTINUED ON PAGE 22.)

THE CARNEGIE PHILANTHROPY.

An eminent librarian is authority for the statement that "Andrew Carnegie's magnificent benefaction will not only do the country with free libraries but will greatly stimulate private collections." This is true, for since the above words were spoken the embargo has been lifted from certain excellent copyrighted books through the International Association of Newspapers and Authors, and we invite COMFORT readers to carefully notice the great Free Book offer on page 21.

MARRY 7 WIVES

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FREE TO GIRLS. A big Sleeping Beauty Doll, 1 and 1/2 ft. tall, including one Lady's Pocket Knife and Purses; also Doll's Chatelaine and Gold Shell Ring. Five presents in all given free for disposing of only 25 assorted Novelty Articles at one dime each. Dolls has a handsome turning head, jointed body, sleeping eyes, long curly hair, hat, shoes, stockings, etc., complete. Order 25 Novelties at once, sell them to your friends, send us the money and receive this big and lovely Sleeping Beauty Doll, Knife, Purses, Doll Chatelaine and Ring for your trouble.

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A FINE FOB CHAIN. A special Holiday privilege will be given all Comfort Subscribers to have one of these boxes sent to their home at our expense for free examination. As Christmas comes so soon we realize you have but little time to get up clubs and make selections of Gifts that will be suited to all the ones you must remember so we have gotten together in this

Family Jewel Casket an assortment of seasonable stylish articles, something for every one in the family to enjoy and we propose to put these into the hands of our valued subscribers who renew during this month only, allowing them the privilege of looking over the goods all over at their pleasure and in their own home where no one will persuade them to choose or not choose.

It is understood that we send these Caskets on inspection only when \$50. is sent to us for renewal, extension or new subscription to COMFORT for the year 1902.

From an assortment of nine thousand different chains COMFORT has selected an original and exclusive pattern.

These Fobs are over six inches long, about one and a quarter inches wide of fine quality black ribbed silk. The illustration is about one half regular size but shows the style and great beauty of the gold plated portions. The pendant charm is a brilliant stone cut in such a way as to give the very best effect, while the whole is neat, attractive and above all extremely stylish. If for any reason you prefer a regular double Gold-plated Gents' Vest Chain with Charm, or a Ladies' long Neck Chain for Watch, we will substitute one of either for the Fob, if you will tell us which one you prefer.

Revival of Watch Fobs. In ye old colonial times every gentleman wore a Fob Chain. Today the revival of the Fob Chain is sweeping the country and all men and women alike, are again adopting this style of watch guard and what appeared to be at first a fad has now grown to be a permanent fashion.

From an assortment of nine thousand different chains COMFORT has selected an original and exclusive pattern.

These Fobs are over six inches long, about one and a quarter inches wide of fine quality black ribbed silk. The illustration is about one half regular size but shows the style and great beauty of the gold plated portions. The pendant charm is a brilliant stone cut in such a way as to give the very best effect, while the whole is neat, attractive and above all extremely stylish. If for any reason you prefer a regular double Gold-plated Gents' Vest Chain with Charm, or a Ladies' long Neck Chain for Watch, we will substitute one of either for the Fob, if you will tell us which one you prefer.

Three Stone Rings. For the Mrs. or Miss of the family or a friend of the family is our first offering. The day of single stone rings, unless diamond, is over and nowadays all want two or three stones in each ring. We have made a very happy selection of a three stone ring with settings that are bound to please. These stones are gems in every sense. The center stone is an imitation ruby with two Sicilian brilliants as side settings. In all three attractive stones set in gold plated mountings.

Then if you decide to keep the entire assortment you are privileged to do so if you send us three more subscriptions to COMFORT for 1902, making in all four subscriptions amounting to \$1.00, and the only manner in which we will dispose of these caskets now or at any future time.

Should you decide after seeing the casket that you wish to retain certain articles but not the entire assortment or are unable to secure the full club required we shall send scheduled in each casket showing the number of subscribers required for portions of this assortment.

At this season we are after renewals of all subscriptions also new names in quantities and adopted the Advance Reward Plan solely for the Holiday renewal opportunity so that your name will not be dropped from our list.

You are to understand, please, that the Casket of Jewelry as a whole or any portions of it are given to you solely for securing the COMFORT subscribers and are not offered to the persons whose name you obtain as a club member.

Gents' Stick Pin.

For his necktie, or a lady finds a solitary diamond pin is useful in many places. (See illus. above.) A genuine old mine diamond could not sparkle more nor shed more glittering rays in daylight or evening than this **Stellian Gem**. The gold-plated setting is the usual style, clean, neat and quite invisible, all being mounted on a strong center twisted pin post.

A HAT PIN for my lady's hat is indispensable. These regular 25c. pins with the spiral tops are very handsome, are fitted with a six inch long strong pin. Each has a generous stone, imitation exact of genuine turquoise, emerald, garnet, ruby and are brilliantly cut stones set in a fancy ornamental gold-plated setting. The stones are large and brilliant and the effect given as it is accentuated by the constant motion of the spiral spring is very pleasing.

Gift and Enamel Brooch.

A useful brooch pin, or for the belt, it is serviceable also in many other ways best known to woman. This pin has the very handsome enamel work in addition to the gold effect. The enamel pins nowadays are much sought by the best dressed people and are fast becoming all other kinds. This has a strong pin post and can be worn safely with no danger of losing.

Roman Gold Barette.

The latest Parisian hair ornament is the stray lock holder or Barette pin. This pin is oval in shape, and is very necessary for ladies wear to keep the so-called "scolding" locks in place. It is an inch and a half long, has a double hairpin-like attachment to gather up the locks and hold them in place, giving a neat appearance to the back hair and a finish to the head dress.

A Trio of Lace or Beauty Pins.

Mother or sister can always find so many uses for these simple little pins, particularly for the neck ribbon or around the babies' clothes are they useful. So we have arranged a set of three for each casket. They are gold plated and as dainty and pretty as can be.

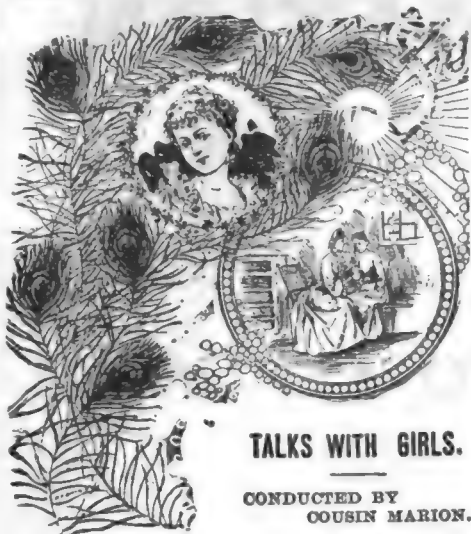
A WHOLE TABLE LOAD OF FUN.

CARL'S TREASURE CABINET OF GAMES, PUZZLES & MAGIC This Assortment of Games A Trio of Lace or Beauty Pins. Include in part, Complete Game of Authors, 48 cards, set Dominoes, Chess and Checker Board and Men for same, Fox and Geese and other nice board games, Magic Age Tablet, Books of Pantomime, Clairvoyance, and the Language of Flowers and Morse Telegraph Alphabet, 50 Conundrums and their answers, 11 Parlor Games and 275 other helpers, making a nice winter evening assortment that all will appreciate, giving instruction and amusement to all, young or old.

FREE! The above seven pieces of fine Gold-plated Jewelry (only six of which are illustrated), as well as the complete lot of Games are all to be sent you free for examination as per offer above. If you are not perfectly pleased with the articles you can immediately return the whole assortment or any part of same. If you like them—and we are sure you will—you simply send the three additional subscribers names and the complete lot will be yours.

We have 27,000 sets of Gold-plated four-piece Collar Button and Wrist Sets we shall add to the lever mounted tops, celluloid back, and are just what every person needs. Send your 25c. subscription at once and the above whole lot of goods will be sent you immediately, including the Shirt and Waist Button Set.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

The last month of the old year, my dears, is here, and what a very little while it does seem since I greeted you all at the first of the year and the opening of the twentieth century. It is a sad thought this ending of the year, but it is gladdened by Christmas and the holiday season, the merriest time of the year, and let us all be bright and cheery as the old one goes, and meet the new one with a smile and start off with it hand in hand.

Now to our talk, and the first one comes from Tebo, Mich., from Cousin Birdie who wants to know if she should return a ring to a young man who asks her for it, though he gave it to her as a birthday gift. Give it back to him, of course. I wouldn't want to be seen with anything belonging to that kind of an individual. As to going driving with hired help, it would depend on who the help is. If he is a nice man, all right; if not, don't go, even if there is nobody else to go with. I should say that eighteen was too young to have "steady company."

Three School Girls, Loup, Neb.—No to all your questions about fourteen-year-old girls and young men. Time enough for them five or six years from now.

Nellie Jane, Willoughby, Pa.—It is not unladylike to allow the clerk in the store to try on a pair of new rubbers. That is part of his business. (2) Don't go with your school teacher after term time, unless it is your last term, and you are old enough to have company. (3) Your sister's old beads may be very nice, and if you like them go with them, of course. (4) Your writing is plain, and will improve as you write more.

Brown Eyes, Hyde, La.—I believe that it is customary to follow a declaration of love by a kiss, but it must be serious.

Sweet Autumn, Bellville, Texas.—If the young man is at all appreciative he will be glad to see the new dresses and nice things, and you should show them to him. (2) Act as though you were really surprised and enjoyed it fully. (3) Visit the school where the young man is teaching, but not the young man. (4) Address, care of Comfort.

Sweetheart, Detroit, Mich.—Better wait till you are twenty and the young man twenty-two. (3) If the young man likes you he will let you know it. If not, stop thinking about him. (4) It is proper to give a young man a birthday present.

Pansy, New York City.—Put the man question out of your mind entirely, my dear, until you are four years older, at least. Sixteen-year-old girls should not have any heart troubles; they will have enough of that by and by. (2) You may walk in the evening with your girl friend, but not on the street unless accompanied by some older person.

Old Friend, Ontario, Canada.—You are superior to your class and what pleases the girls you speak of is distasteful to you because of your better mind. Go on improving yourself and some day the kind of a man you should have will find you; or if he does not, you will be happier than if you tied yourself down to one who was inferior.

Brown Eyes, Pentwater, Mich.—If the young man does not come to see you, cut him off your list of friends. (2) Compliments are not flattery when they are true. (3) Don't send your picture to the gentleman. And never write except in answer to his letter.

Minnie, May and Claire, Evening Shade, Ark.—The young men you mention seem to be lacking in good manners, and you should drop their acquaintance. There are plenty with good manners.

Trouble and Black Eyes, Garrett, Ind.—Marry and leave your dreary home, but be sure first that you will not do worse. (2) Obey your parents about the young man until after you are twenty. (3) White, pearl, or very light tinted gloves for evening, except for ordinary wear. (4) Don't leave school at present.

Homely, Iowa City, La.—It is proper for a man to stop a lady on the street and talk to her if she has no objections. (3) If the man comes to take the lady out he should tell her so as soon as he arrives. (4) If he does not know enough to take off his overcoat, ask him to do so. (4) An introduction may be made at any time or place that is convenient. It is even done sometimes in the street. (5) It would be less embarrassing if he asked you to go to places with him, when only you two were present. He is evidently very frank and honest.

Bessie, Pensacola, Fla.—The young man is a villain and your safety lies in not seeing him again. The final result is entirely in your hands and you alone are to blame if harm comes. (2) Love goes where it listeth and it cannot be kept. (3) The use of hair destroyers is dangerous. Consult your physician.

Red and White Roses, Austin, Kan.—It is improper to sit in a young man's lap. (2) Don't have your picture taken with a young man. (3) You may go to his home if you are engaged, and he may kiss you if you are engaged.

Goldy and Snowy, Galesburg, Kans.—Yes, lovers will sometimes torment those they love, but it is not very manly or kind. No to your next two questions about kissing. Twenty to twenty-two seems to be the most popular marrying age for girls, but twenty-five is better, and I think the man should be ten years older, at least.

May and Jeannette, Lowell, Mass.—The bride usually chooses the minister, but there is no rule. (2) Ordinarily, parents are consulted by a girl before she chooses a husband, but not always. They should be, however.

Blue Bell, Buckhorn, Miss.—If the man is all right marry him, provided his people are not positively disreputable. You must remember, however, that as his wife you are part of his people.

Adele, Washburn, Wis.—Adele, dear, you are only fifteen and I can only answer your questions by advising you to think about your books and not about the beads. Every question you ask shows that you are too young to have anything to do with them.

Abbie, Colita, Ill.—A pretty scarf pin is as nice a Christmas present as you could make as the young man. (2) There is no rule for the number of times a man should call on his best girl. She should be consulted. (3) Sweethearts determine for themselves when they shall become engaged. No kissing till engaged.

Blue Eyes, Montgomery, Md.—Your questions are all too hard for me. Nobody can tell whether men mean it or not when they say pleasant things to you. It is different with unpleasant things.

Daffodil, Toronto, Ont.—Ask your parents first.

See answer to May and Jeannette above. (2) Of course not. (3) There never was a goose so old and gray, etc., so you may still hope. (4) Their deeds are evil, loving darkness better than light.

Ambrose, Oakland, Calif.—You may give him a present, but must it be a ring? Try something less significant. (2) Politely decline the present you do not wish to accept.

E. M. E., Providence, R. I.—The formula seems to be harmless enough, but ask your druggist. I am not an authority.

Babe, Meeteetee, Va.—The third Sunday in August, 1878, was the 18th day of the month.

That is all for this time, my dears, and for the year 1901. May the New Year bring you many blessings and may you have many new years to say that you have done much good in the old ones and God be with you till we meet again. A Merry Christmas to you all.

COUSIN MARION.

A Musical Masquerade.

A True Story.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TWO gentlemen in evening dress and carrying light overcoats left the door of a handsome brown-stone house on Fifth Avenue, New York, one summer evening at nearly six o'clock.

Chatting pleasantly they went their way down the busy thoroughfare, nodding to this one and that, as men whose long residence in the place gave them acquaintance with many people. They were then on their way to dine with one of "earth's favored ones," at whose palatial mansion they were to meet the fairest debutante of the past season.

The evening being so warm and they somewhat early for their appointment, they had agreed to walk and while crossing

a street their attention was attracted by the sound of music. Street musicians are not so uncommon as to ordinarily attract attention, but there was something in this which these gentlemen, both musicians of no mean ability, although amateurs, recognized as out of the ordinary; and as if by one impulse they stopped, looked at each other and then down the side street from whence the sound came.

"That's not bad," said Colfax, the elder of the two. "In fact, it's very good," he added as a gentle breeze sent the sound of violins towards them with increased volume.

"Let's go down and see about it," suggested the younger man. "We've time enough."

The two turned west and in the middle of the square they came upon a little crowd gathered round two men, who with violins under their chins, were playing in the street. These men were dark, foreign-looking chaps, roughly dressed, but one forgot their appearance while listening to their really wonderful playing. It was not the catchy dance music which one associates with street musicians in common, but the works of famous composers found rare interpretation, and Colfax and his friend exchanged glances of keen appreciation as one familiar number after another was played with unfailing accuracy and precision. After two or three selections had been played, one of the men took off his cap and passed it to the people standing round.

Mr. Colfax's familiarity with Italian made it easy for him to engage the men in talk and he quickly learned their story. They had arrived in New York a week before from Italy in company with a man who had promised them work and big wages, but who had disappeared and they had been obliged to play in the streets to earn their bread.

Mr. Colfax thought a moment and then said, "Come to this number at ten o'clock this evening and play for me. I think I can get work for you."

The men thankfully promised to be at his rooms at the hour appointed and Colfax and his friend, hailing a passing cab were whirled on to their destination.

A few moments past ten they reached Colfax's rooms. "I wonder if they will be here," he remarked. "Probably not."

As he spoke two dark figures rose from the steps.

"Ah, here you are. That's good. Come in. Now for some music."

The men played as if inspired. Duets for two violins and each in turn at the piano, they played for an hour. At the end of that time Colfax was wild with delight.

"No more street playing for you," he said. "Tomorrow I'll get you places in the best orchestra in the city." As the men started to go Colfax handed to one a bill, saying, "For present needs, my friend. You'll soon be able to earn more."

The man bowed and murmured some words of thanks, then as he passed out he rolled the bill into a taper and with it lighted the cigar which Colfax had given him.

"Well," said Colfax to his friend, "that's cool. Maybe he hasn't been long enough in this country to know that that kind of paper means something. He'll have to be looked after a little."

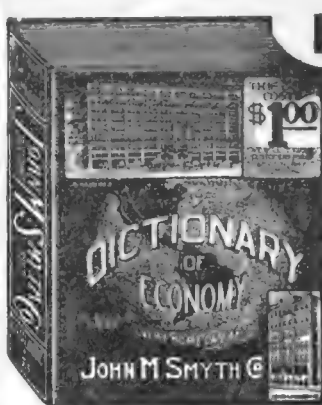
The two gentlemen sat smoking and talking together till it was nearly twelve o'clock when there was a knock at the door. Colfax opened it and nearly fell over backwards in his astonishment.

Orange Lily cures Leucorrhoea, Ulceration, Displacement, Painful Periods. For a free trial address, Mrs. H. C. Fretter, Detroit, Mich.

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"THE LIGHT THAT WON'T GO OUT."

Every family in America is ready to buy "The Light that sells on sight"—the wonderful new invention called **ARC-LIGHT WICK**. It burns a whole year without trimming. It kills a candle, discards its keystone, beats gas, and almost equals electricity or sunlight.

It saves 50 per cent. of oil. It's clear, white and brilliant. It's the light that won't go out. It's the light in the window for these reasons: The **ARC-LIGHT** is something new. All need it, all buy it, all like it. To show it means to sell it, and it yields from 100 per cent. to 300 per cent. profit to agents.

The same kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the **ARC-LIGHT** by a patent process. We hold affidavits showing that our **ARC-LIGHT** burned 1040 hours, giving the last hour the same perfect, brilliant, light as gave the first.

A single lamp manufacturer in New England, who bought over 35,000 units of "The Arc-Light" beats all others. One lamp, and turns night into day. Every home, store, hotel, car company will light with it. We have manufacturers to cover, and we wholesale terms. Medium or A for house lamps, dozen, 25 cents; wicks, for hand wide, sample, \$2.50; ball, store, or sample, 5 cents; \$3.50; 12-wick ball, bracket, or 33 cents dozen; parlor lamps, sample, 35 cents; per gross, \$3.50; 12-wick sample, dozen, giving wide desired, and see how they glow. We can supply you with any style **ARC-LIGHT WICK** in any quantities, from a single wick to a thousand dozen.

Copyright, 1898, by Morse & Co. SPECIAL FREE COUPON OFFER. To all who send this coupon we will send 2 samples of A or E wick just to prove our wicks are the best in the world. Address **COMFORT, Box 859, Augusta, Maine.**

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To introduce our famous little **Giant Oxien Pills**, giving all the chance to derive the wonderful benefits from these new life-giving wonders, we send two boxes absolutely free, all charges paid. You sell the Pills for 25c. per box, send us the money within 20 days, 50c. in all, and we give you as a premium this wonderful **Gold Lined Silver Dish** free. These dishes are warranted quadruple plated silver; they are fitted top and beautiful and useful ornaments; they are suitable for dining table use, or used as side dish for bon bons they are elegant and will last for years. Send your name and address at once so your friends can derive the great benefits coming from the use of **Oxien Pills** and you get the profits as the dish can be sold in a minute for 75c. These Pills are noted for their quick action on Liver, Stomach, Heart, Bowels, and special organs of either sex. All the vanish as if by magic if you use these Pills. Send quick so as to be sure of a dish before they all go, and get full particulars of our great money-making agency proposition, where you get hundreds of dollars from a one dollar investment. Address,

THE GIANT OXIE PILL DEPT. M. Augusta, Maine.



56 PIECE T SET **FREE** **FOR A CLUB OF 12.**

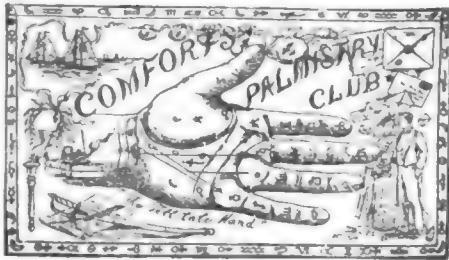
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CLUB OFFER.

PRICE OF TEA SETS ADVANCING. We find ourselves in a fortunate position in obtaining for our old club raisers an extraordinary value in **China Ware**. There are more opportunities to obtain as a premium a set of dishes than any other kind of merchandise, probably because of the great usefulness of the same. It is our custom at this season of the year to renew all subscriptions, also obtain large numbers of new readers for the coming year. So we have made a special effort to add attractive features to our already popular magazine and can promise every issue next year will please every member of the household.

A Word About the Tea Sets. These sets are of the latest and most beautiful design, of choicest coloring and pattern, they are regular \$4.00 to \$6.00 store price sets. This useful and ornamental set, which would adorn and beautify any abode of luxury, we shall give away for a short time to our club raisers. Let us tell you what it is. It is a 56-piece tea set consisting of teapot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, 12 cups, 12 saucers, 12 tea plates, 2 cake plates, 12 preserve dishes and one soup bowl. It is of the finest style ware and every piece perfect in design and shape. Never was a more handsome set put together and it will be a marvel of beauty for years. It is the perfection of daintiness and every woman will find instant delight and constant pleasure in owning one.

SPECIAL CLUB OFFER. If you will send a club of only twelve subscribers to **COMFORT** to date until January, 1903, we will send **COMFORT** regularly during this period and as a Christmas gift for sending the club we will send you, carefully packed, one complete **56-Piece Tea Set** exactly as above described.

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CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store, or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get the impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph of sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Be in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

THE present article will have to be given up for the most part to readings, but I trust it will be found helpful to the average club member as well.

K. J. L., has a hand denoting a great deal of character with courage, perseverance and energy. The life line is not very long, ending in the impression I have before me, at about fifty to fifty-five. There will be a decided change in this life between the ages of forty and forty-five and I think a second marriage will take place then. The first marriage, or if not a marriage a very close friendship or love affair appears between the ages of eighteen and thirty. The fate line is very good in this hand, indicating excellent success up to the age of fifty, although I do not see many signs of wealth. There is an excellent head line also, showing good sense and business ability with plenty of self confidence and an evenly balanced mind. The heart line indicates that this subject will be eminently sensible in love affairs, choosing a mate for life from a practical standpoint rather than a sentimental. A good deal of traveling about is indicated, with popularity and many close friendships. I see few signs of trouble, and although the life will be successful, the subject will always work hard.

Hilldrop has a hand that is much more lined than the last one and with very marked characteristics. This person is very ambitious and will marry well. There will be a good deal of trouble in love affairs during the first twenty-five years of her life and she will have one disappointment which will cause her a good deal of anxiety. But she will marry well and her second marriage I think will be happier than her first. She is very attractive to the opposite sex and will have many suitors and several serious love affairs. In some of these she will be strongly opposed by relatives of either party, but will finally marry according to her ambition and will be quite successful for a while. In middle life she will make a second marriage, which as I have said, will be more successful than the first and will be attended by more wealth. She will travel considerable, although not in this country. She is inclined to be sentimental and sometimes to prevarications. She is also inclined to be melancholy at times, and should strive against this latter feeling. She was much hampered in her youth and had an unhappy childhood; by far the happier and more successful portion of her life will come after she is thirty and she will live to a good old age.

B. O. S. sends an excellent impression, made secure with fixatif so that it is easy to read. The two preceding ones were very badly blurred. B. O. S. has a hand which shows a good deal of trial and trouble but one in which the fate line rises supreme and by turning diagonally across to the mount of the Sun brings fame and glory to the subject. In early life the childhood was rather repressed and there was a serious love affair before the subject was twenty. There was a distinct break in the life line between the ages of twenty-five and thirty when a very strange circumstance

affected the subject in an unexpected way. I think there was a marriage or a serious love affair at that time but it disappears in the course of a few years, after which the life flows on more placidly and the fate line grows stronger. I think this subject has a great future before her and has talent for the stage. If she were to study for the stage she would be attended with success in proportion to the amount of perseverance which she develops, a quality in which she is somewhat lacking. I think there was some mystery connected with her birth or possibly some scandal or disgrace for which she is not responsible. She will rise superior to it however, and is sure to make her mark in the world either as an actress, a lecturer, a writer or a teacher. She is somewhat sentimentally inclined and if anything a little lacking in regard for truth. She needs to cultivate this quality, to have more courage and to develop patience. It would be better for this person not to marry, although she will have plenty of opportunities. She will have to make her way through difficulties but will succeed and have both fame and money in her old age. I see much traveling for her and a nervous disposition with some rather startling and unusual changes during middle life.

A member of the Club asks for prices of good books on palmistry. Most of the larger books, such as Cheiro's Language of the Hand and Professor Hargett's are two dollars. Heron Allen's is \$1.50 and there are others at from \$1 upwards. If any of you desire these books, it would be well to write to Brentano's, Union Sq., New York.

As there are stars on several of the hands read lately, I will give you the signs of the star according to Heron Allen:

"A star, wherever it appears, is generally the indication of some event we cannot possibly control; it is generally a danger and always something unavoidable. Whether, however, it is good or bad, depends of course upon the aspect of the lines, particularly of the line of fortune. This, however, is fixed—that a star, wherever it is found, always means something and what that something is, be it the task of the chirosophist to discover.

On the Mount of Jupiter, it signifies gratified ambition, good luck, honour, love and success. With a cross on this Mount it indicates a happy marriage with some one of brilliant antecedents or high position.

On the Mount of Saturn it indicates a great fatality, generally a very bad one, indicating with corroborative signs, probably murder, and in a criminal or otherwise bad hand a probability of death upon the scaffold.

On the Mount of Apollo, with no line of Apollo in the hand, it betokens wealth without happiness, and celebrity after a hazardous struggle for it. With the line of brilliancy it denotes excessive celebrity, as the combined result of labor and talent; with several lines also on the mount it is a sure indication of wealth.

On the Mount of Mercury it betrays dishonesty and theft. On the Mount of Mars, violence leading to homicide.

On the Mount of the Moon it indicates hypocrisy and dissimulation, with misfortune resulting from excess of the imagination. The old chiromants looked upon this as a warning of death by drowning, and stated that combined with a high mount invaded by the line of the head, it indicated suicide by drowning.

On the base of the Mount of Venus it indicated a misfortune brought about by the influence of women.

On the first (or outer) phalanx of any finger (but especially that of Saturn) a star indicates either strange good luck or else folly. On the third (or lowest) phalanx of the finger, or Saturn, a star warns the subject of a danger of assassination, and if at this point it is joined by the line of Saturn, a disgraceful death is almost inevitable, resulting as a rule from the vices shown elsewhere in the hand.

On the base of the phalanx of logic of the thumb—in fact, on the junction of the phalanx of logic and the Mount of Venus—it points to a misfortune connected with a woman, probably indicating an unhappy marriage, which will be the curse of the subject's whole life unless the Mount of Jupiter be developed, in which case there is a probability that the subject will get over it.

A star on the voyage line indicates with certainty death by drowning.

If a star be found on the center of the quadrangle, the subject, though true and honest as the day, will be the absolute plaything of women, a trait which will result in misfortune, from which, however, he will recover in time.

Thus it will be seen that a star is almost the most important sign to seek for in a hand.

Digitus

EVERY LADY READ THIS.

I will send free a positive cure for all female diseases, irregularities, etc. A simple home treatment, a common sense remedy that never fails. FREE with valuable advice. MRS. L. D. HUDNUT, South Bend, Ind.

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Send us only 5c. and we send you Six Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. 5 cents for 6. Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

TO WOMEN WHO DREAD MOTHERHOOD!

Information How They May Give Birth to Happy, Healthy Children Absolutely Without Pain—Sent Free.

No woman need any longer dread the pains of child-birth; or remain childless. Dr. J. H. Dye has devoted his life to relieving the sorrows of women. He has proved that all pain at child-birth may be entirely banished, and he will gladly tell you how it may be done absolutely free of charge. Send your name and address to Dr. J. H. Dye, Box 127, Buffalo, N. Y., and he will send you, postpaid, his wonderful book which tells how to give birth to happy, healthy children, absolutely without pain; also how to cure sterility. Do not delay but write today.

PROCLAMATION TO WEAK MEN

Charity, the Noblest Impulse of Man, Exemplified by a Well Known Missourian.

SENT FREE TO ALL MEN!

W. S. Harter, an honored and influential citizen of Nevada, Mo., makes a statement and an overgenerous offer that comes in the shape of a proclamation of health to all afflicted with loss of vitality and its kindred ailments. His case was a most pitiable one, nightly emissions so

thought perhaps the remedy may not prove in every case so wonderfully beneficial as it did in his. For this reason he gave 50 sufferers the treatment, and in every instance the same wonderful results were experienced as was in his case, so he now says he will send every sufferer a



draining and his constitution was weakened to such a degree that it was impossible for him to perform his duties. He spent hundreds of dollars for remedies and to specialists, but could not regain his vitality or check the awful nightly emissions. One day a brother lodge member called his attention to a remedy, in fact, implored Mr. Harter to take the remedy for his affliction; he did so, and in one month's time was entirely cured, his constitution rejuvenated and his vitality regained. Today he is a man in every sense which that word would imply. Mr. Harter is not what one would call an immensely rich man, but his gratitude for this marvelous remedy is so great that he says he intends making his life's labor that of putting his remedy in the hands of all those afflicted as he was. Mr. Harter, being a very conscientious man,

this death-dealing disease, Lost Manhood and its kindred ailments, absolutely free, the means want directed him to health and contentment. At Nevada, Mo., there is located State Asylum No. 3, in which there are at present about 700 patients; Mr. Harter claims that upon good authority he is informed that about 75 per cent. of these unfortunate inmates suffer from Lost Manhood, and the awful drainage brought upon them through nightly emissions. With this awful picture ever before him, he believes it is his duty to humanity to save those now upon a brink of destruction, which is much worse than death. Any reader sending his name and address to Mr. W. S. Harter, 232 Ash Street, Nevada, Mo., will receive without delay and free of charge, the wonderful knowledge.

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Sell 20 Mineral Lamp Wicks at 5 cents each; no Trimming, Smoke or Smell. We Trust You 30 days; when sold send money and we send 2 Rings or choice from big list premiums. MINERAL WICK CO., Providence, R. I.

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A Beautiful Bust and Perfect Figure.
Full information how to develop the Bust 6 inches will be sent you free, in plain sealed package, also new Beauty Book, photos from life, and testimonials from many prominent society ladies, who have used this safe, sure and rapid method. Inclose stamp to pay postage. Address: **AURUM CO., Dept. HB, 55 State St., CHICAGO**

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A BIG OFFER
50c. MADEIRA MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two store bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it an advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$50 or \$100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. **GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.**

WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same we will also send you a big chain. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

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and everything will be clear to you. These machines are strongly and beautifully made, handsomely nickel-plated. There is nothing to get out of order and they will last a life time. Being an entirely new invention we want to introduce quickly and therefore offer them FREE. We will send one as a sample securely packed in a box all charges paid, if you secure but one new 25c. trial year subscription to our monthly. We enter the subscription you send for your friend for a whole year and send the Fortune Teller to you as a free reward. Address **SUNSHINE, Box 632, Augusta, Maine.**

Great American Givers.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



in American life" says Mr. William M. Stevenson, Librarian of the Free Library of Allegheny, Pa., "is inestimable. It is the most democratic of all forms of popular recreation. The public library comes closer to the people in this country than any other institution, the aim of which is the uplifting and upbuilding of the masses."

No man has done more to foster this form of popular education than has Andrew Carnegie. He has now aided and founded a score of public libraries and his benefactions in this direction exceed six millions of dollars. This is more than the annual appropriation for Common Schools made by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The libraries founded by Mr. Carnegie have placed in the hands of their readers more than ten million volumes of books. They have refunded for maintenance up to August 1899 a million and a quarter of dollars. The area of their influence extends from Edinburgh, Scotland, in the east, to Fairfield, Iowa, in the west, and from Inverness, Scotland, in the north to Atlanta, Georgia, in the south.

Mr. Carnegie's motto, notwithstanding he is one of our great modern philanthropists is that "God helps those who help themselves." The principles therefore on which his libraries are founded is that the community must support them, wholly, where possible. If not, at least partially, although in one or two instances, notably his beloved city of Allegheny, the gift is absolutely without restriction.

In the short space of ten years, Mr. Carnegie has given twelve library buildings fully equipped with books to as many different communities.

There are thus two classes in Mr. Carnegie's benefaction, the Free Library and the Free Public Library. The former is an absolute gift maintained wholly or in part by the donor, the latter is a free library supported by public taxation. The great institution at Allegheny, Pa., is a Free Library of which the entire cost of building and books and for current maintenance and support is contributed by Mr. Carnegie. The Library at Edinburgh, Scotland, is, on the other hand, the largest and most notable in the list of Free Public Libraries that comes under the general head of this remarkable benefaction. Mr. Carnegie is a Scotchman, having been born in the "land o' cakes" in 1837. He came to this country along with the family when only ten years old. Although a mere boy, he was strong and willing, and so got a "job" at once firing a stationary engine. The engine was in a cellar in Allegheny City, Pa. For this work he received twenty cents per day or \$1.20 a week. How many of his fellow-countrymen know that he was once a messenger-boy for the Atlantic & Ohio Telegraph Company? Here he got \$2.50 a week. Thence he graduated to "the key" and became in a short time an expert operator—in itself a sort of liberal education. At fourteen when his father died, he was the sole support of his mother and brother. He had remarkable precocity and having been appointed telegraph operator on the Pennsylvania Railroad while still a youth, he actually rose to the position of Director before he was twenty-one. His wonderful sagacity early attracted the attention of Col. Thomas A. Scott the famous first President of the Pennsylvania Road. The development of the coal, oil, coke, iron and steel industries of Pennsylvania from this period is largely the personal history of Thomas A. Scott and Andrew Carnegie. I place the former's name first only because he has passed away. Of course railway expansion was growing by leaps in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during this time and incidentally Mr. Carnegie and not Geo. M. Pullman as is generally supposed, developed and introduced the first sleeping-car in America under the Woodruff System. When the war broke out, though still under twenty-five years of age, he was placed in charge of the military railways of the Government. At the conclusion of the war he traveled for a year to restore his health, meanwhile studying Economic conditions abroad. On his return he founded the great iron and steel interests with which his fame is most widely connected. Mr. Carnegie, unlike many other builders and owners of great fortunes is a conspicuous benefactor in other ways. Although he has never held public office he is a public spirited citizen of the highest and broadest type. A man from whom an important public utterance may be expected when any great issue is pending. Perhaps nothing is more explanatory of the man and his success than that he had all his life been a close student of men and affairs; of life, of literature, even of the arts.

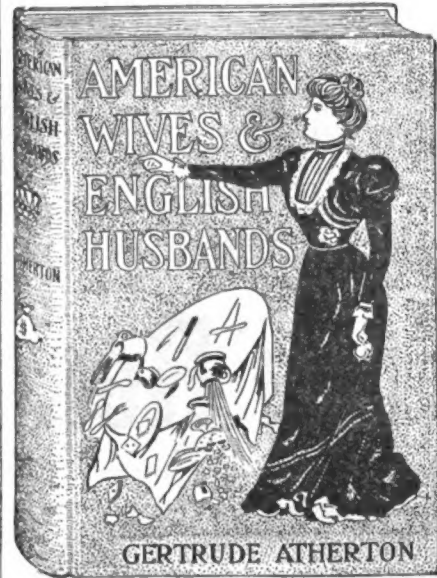
A recent writer pays him this tribute: "With but rudimentary education he has become a facile writer, a ready speaker, well informed on social, political and philosophical questions, the practical matters so closely related to human happiness and progress."

Probably no man has wasted fewer hours in a long and useful life than Andrew Carnegie. Even his outings have been made famous and profitable to the public. His "American Four-Hand In Britain," the record of a coaching trip through the British Isles, has had a large public sale, and by sheer force of literary charm it became, when published, a generally popular book. When he speaks on public questions with his pen, he commands an audience that is only bounded by the confines of civilization. His "Triumphant Democracy" has sold fifty thousand copies, and he is a contributor of much force and moment to the leading English and American reviews.

Mr. Carnegie's public benefactions including the Carnegie Institute at Pittsburgh and his series of libraries are upwards of ten millions of dollars and are being constantly added to. He is an eminent example of that noble spectacle which is represented in America by several

ANDREW Carnegie the Iron and Steel King of Pittsburgh, while he has been a man of large and general benevolence will be remembered chiefly through the series—it might almost be called a system—of public libraries which he has founded. "The value of the public library as an educational force

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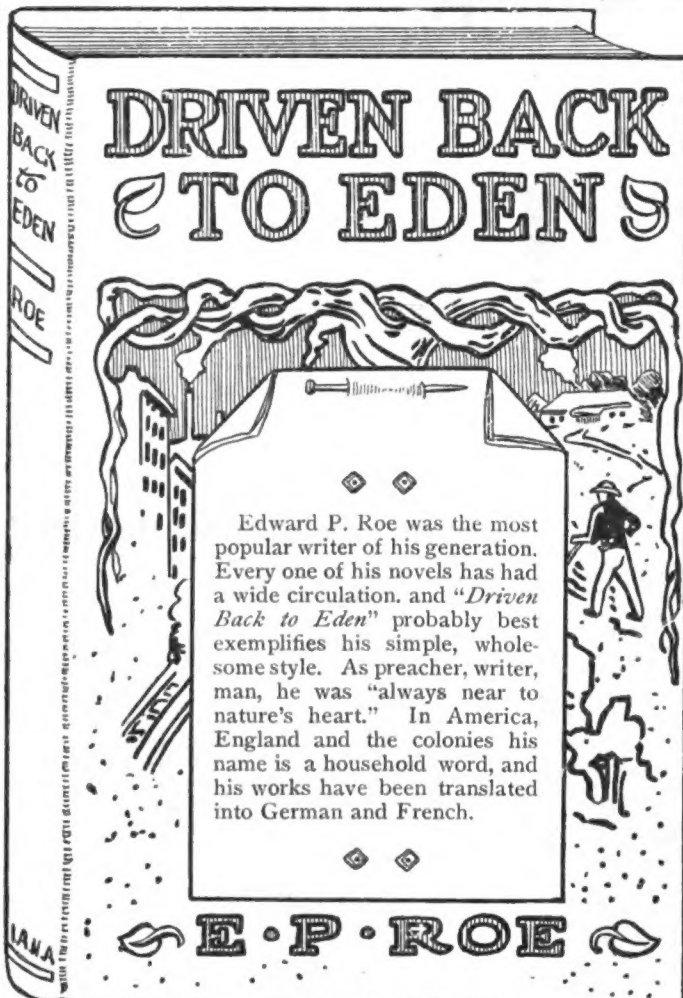
publishers even now charge the regular price for. At the expiration of time agreed upon, which has already nearly expired. The arrangement is for all unused copies to go back to the binders and be distributed through the regular channels at old prices, \$1.50 and \$1.75 each.



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Edward P. Roe was the most popular writer of his generation. Every one of his novels has had a wide circulation, and "Driven Back to Eden" probably best exemplifies his simple, wholesome style. As preacher, writer, man, he was "always near to nature's heart." In America, England and the colonies his name is a household word, and his works have been translated into German and French.

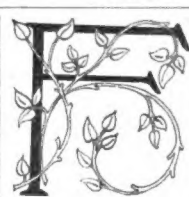
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other men; of great wealth being wisely disposed for the benefit of posterity by its own creator during his lifetime. It is not unlikely, judging from present appearances, that Andrew Carnegie will thus invest the larger part of his fortune himself before he dies.

TO clear the island of Cuba from the germs of yellow fever will be a long, hard fight. The soil is saturated with them; the marshes are their breeding places, and the hot, moist atmosphere there gives them vitality; the filth of the communities harbors them, and the personal carelessness of the people invites them.



When the oil first touches the dust-covered street it spreads out among the atoms as it does when dropped upon water. When a quantity of oil has been spread and the surface of the street is covered, the oil gravitates down through the

OR several years oil has been used in some towns to lay the dust on the streets in summer, and also improve them in quality. This expedient has also been used by a number of eastern railroads to lay the dust on the roadbed and therefore add to the comfort of its patrons.

dust and cakes the entire surface of the street. The sun dries out and hardens the surface, and a splendid road, almost as hard as asphalt is the result, with all the dirt and dust imprisoned under the hard upper crust.

ONE of the curiosities of the Bank of England is to be seen in its printing room, where is a machine which every three minutes delivers to a man sitting at his desk two completely finished five-pound notes. In six hours this man receives in this way, seventy thousand pounds, and in a year he has gathered in notes amounting to over twenty million pounds, or about one hundred million dollars.

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wards fastened together with bolts.

Recently several processes combining photography with etching have come into vogue, and furnished a cheap and effective way of producing illustrations. Some beautiful effects have been obtained by means of these illustrations, and they are certainly invaluable in a great many ways. Cheap reproductions of painting and scenes from nature have been possible, and hardly a magazine or book is issued now-a-days that is not filled with these illustrations.

At the same time the lovers of the beautiful and artistic in fine book-making have never been quite satisfied with the new order of things, and though of recent years wood-engraving has become much less common, it has never lost its admirers. For years the leading publishers have employed wood-engravers to re-touch copper process cuts, and give them the artistic feeling and individuality that the originals lacked. At the present day the wood-engraver's art seems to be on the increase, rather than sinking into oblivion.

As a pastime, wood-engraving will be found very fascinating for those who care to try it. Boxwood or maple is the material used; boxwood is better for fine work though maple will

serve the beginner's purpose quite as well. The best boxwood comes from Turkey, though very good wood is also grown in America. It is cut across the grain so that the engraver works on the end of the wood fibres. It may be bought all ready prepared in any of our large cities and costs from one cent an inch for maple up to ten or fifteen cents an inch for the best imported boxwood. For implements the beginner will require four or five gravers of different shapes, a small oil-stone for sharpening the tools, a leather pad upon which to rest the work, and a magnifying glass of moderate power supported on a standard, and adjustable as to height. The whole outfit need not cost more than four or five dollars.

The first step is to prepare the block for use, and this is done by painting it over with a thin coat of Chinese white. The drawing may now be drawn or traced directly on the wood. It is best for a first attempt to start with some drawing that contains only a few coarse lines. After the drawing is traced it may be gone over carefully with India ink. In tracing the drawing care should be taken to have the reverse of the way it is to appear in the finished print, so that letters and figures will appear as they are in the original.

After the drawing is complete the block is placed on the pad and held with one hand, while the other hand works with the graver, cutting away all the wood from the black lines, and leaving the drawing in relief. Great care must be taken not to let the tool slip, as every scratch that marks the black lines of the drawing will show in the finished print. It is necessary first to outline the work with very fine lines of the graver, and then to clear away the waste wood taking care not to let the tool bear on the edge of any finished line, as the marks will show in the print.

There are a number of different kinds of gravers, but the beginner will need only three or four; a graver for cutting very fine lines and for outlining the work, one a little coarser for cutting thicker lines and for cleaning away small spaces, and a gouge with a round point for cleaning away superfluous wood.

A good light is of course essential, and to avoid the glare and focus the rays on their work engravers sometimes place a glass globe full of water in such a way that the light is focused on the block.

The production of really fine work calls for artistic as well as mechanical skill of no mean quality; but simple designs in outline with

heavy black and white effects are by no means difficult to execute, and are very pleasing. To take a proof of one's work it will be necessary to obtain a roller such as printers use, or a pad covered with soft leather, and a small quantity of printer's ink. This is spread on a smooth surface, preferably wood or glass, and a thin layer rolled or dabbed evenly over the engraving. A sheet of paper is next placed over the design, and the whole is covered with a thicker piece. Next rub over the whole of the surface with a burnisher—the handle of an old toothbrush will do very well, and the print of the engraving will be transferred to the paper.

It will usually be necessary to go over the work again, correcting some of its irregularities and defects. Only a hint of the process of course can be given in a short article, but the beginner in engraving can find plenty of instruction on the subject in any public library, and as the work goes on and simple designs are executed, the interest will grow, and the ambition will be aroused to do more difficult pieces of work. In this connection it is interesting to note that Robert Louis Stevenson was an enthusiastic amateur wood-engraver, and some of the first blocks done by him are on exhibition in the Boston Public Library.

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. A \$125,000 Painting Over 200 Years Old. This is the celebrated Immaculate Conception known the world over as the masterpiece of that great Religious painter, Bartolome Esteban Murillo, whose conception for painting Magdalens, Virgins and similar subjects caused him to be placed in the front ranks of the world's famous painters. Murillo was born in Seville, in 1618. His life was one of adverse circumstances. Born of poor parents, his opportunities for following his chosen profession were slight, but by earnest attention to his studies, he, by his wonderful talent, gradually obtained the notice of some of the great masters of his day under whose directions he rapidly moved forward in the field of art. In his travels to Rome, he sought and obtained the influence of Velasquez, the greatest Spanish painter of that time, who, struck by his talent, took him under his own instruction and helped him well upward on the ladder of fame. He painted over four hundred and eighty pictures. With few exceptions, all his canvasses sold for fabulous sums, some bringing as high as \$125,000. Murillo died at Seville, April 3, 1682, from injuries received by falling from a scaffold from which he was painting a large picture of "The Marriage of St. Catherine" in the Church of the Capuchins. A description of his celebrated Immaculate Conception, which is owned by the French government where it rests securely in the Louvre at Paris, is given below:

This picture was painted in 1678 for the Church of the Venerables in Seville, and was bought by the French government at the sale of Marshal Soult's collection in 1852, for \$123,000. It has been said by connoisseurs of Murillo's art and of this painting in particular, that "no rules known to art could produce that spirit of purity which breathes throughout the creations of Murillo, whose hand has stamped upon them, as far as human hand could do, that perfect nature of the Mother of God, 'spotless without and innocent within.' The Virgin—in the flower of her age, with her hands meekly folded a cross her breast, draped in the simple blue mantle and flowing white robe which covers her feet—floats upward toward the sky, attended by beautiful cherubs in every graceful position. The crescent moon under her feet is a symbol of her triumph over every other being who has been elevated to divine honors by man. Her expression is one of girlish simplicity and devout resignation to her heavenly calling."

feet—floats upward toward the sky, attended by beautiful cherubs in every graceful position. The crescent moon under her feet is a symbol of her triumph over every other being who has been elevated to divine honors by man. Her expression is one of girlish simplicity and devout resignation to her heavenly calling."

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BITTER MEDICINE. The Doctor Orders It. There is not one among us, from the youngest to the oldest but what dislike to take medicine in any form. This distaste is especially strong among the younger generation. In such cases it often becomes necessary for the Family Doctor to administer his dose by force. Our picture shows the critical moment when the Doctor, with the baby in his arms, who is crying, kicking and protesting in every way possible, is endeavoring to make it take the contents of the big spoon which he holds in his left hand. Gathered around the chair of the Doctor is the balance of the family, all eager and anxious to see the results of his efforts. The baby's sister has heard the cries of her little brother and come running to see what is the matter, and stands looking at the Doctor, enjoying his unsuccessful attempts to overcome the violent protests of the little baby brother. The mother is directly in the rear of the Doctor's chair, and leaning over his shoulder, watches his efforts and those of her baby with motherly interest; while the father, leaning on the table, takes things more seriously. The scene is one which every family who has been through this homely and familiar experience will recognize, for families are perpetuated by babies. Babies become sick and either the parent or the Doctor must of necessity give the medicine, and to accomplish this, as our picture shows, heroic measures are sometimes necessary. In this particular instance, Resistance and Patience seem to be pitted against each other, with the chances in favor of Patience. Mr. Fleischer, the painter, belongs to the Munich school.

24 inches and when suitably framed looks as nice hanging on the wall as any genuine, original, hand-painted canvass costing \$10.00, \$20.00 or even \$1000.00. In preparing the paper for these pictures, by a process taken from the Germans, a canvass-like appearance is given the surface and is quite as prominent as in pictures that are actually painted on canvass.

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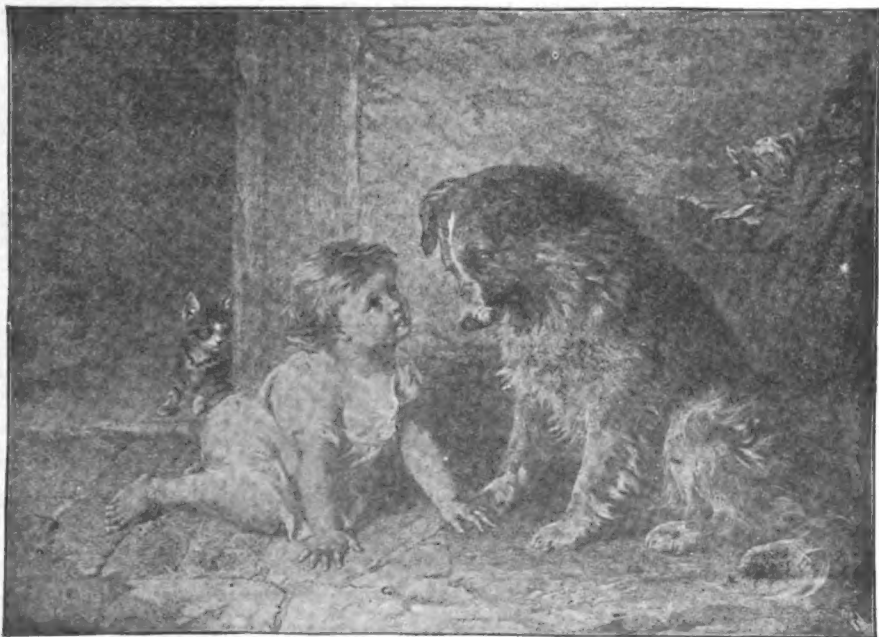
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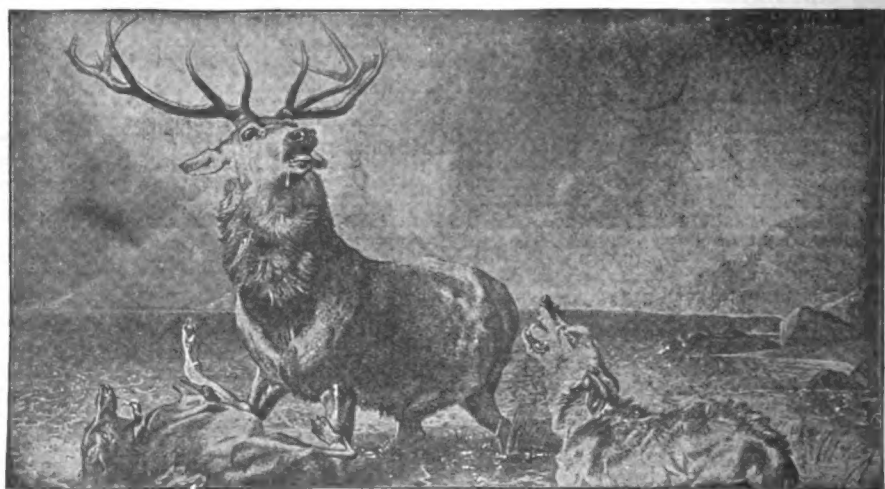
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DEFIANCE—OR STAG AT BAY. A Million Dollar Artist. This particular subject was one of Landseer's best pictures. The love of this great painter for all dumb creatures found expression in his art, and wide spread appreciation of his paintings show how firmly the love of animals is fixed in the human mind. No painting has ever been more popular and no one, with the possible exception of Rosa Bonheur, has approached him as a painter of animals. Sir Edwin Landseer, the son of John Landseer, the celebrated engraver, was born in London, March 7th, 1802, and died October 1st, 1873. His remains were interred among the Nation's honored dead in St. Paul's Cathedral. When he died his property amounted to over \$800,000. His various canvasses selling for \$30,000 to \$50,000 each, he thus easily earned more than a million dollars from his work. The incident of the picture "Defiance" shows the end of a long hunt over the mountains. The hounds have followed the stag so closely, and in the hope of baffling his pursuers he has taken to the lake, but, nothing daunted, two of the pack follow, yelping, barking and biting at his haunches. When knee deep in water, the gallant stag stops and makes a stand; with a thrust of his noble antlers, born of desperation, he strikes and fells one of the dogs, severely injuring the other which immediately sets up a cry of mingled pain and terror, endeavoring by his yelps to secure the assistance of the rest of the pack, who are standing on the shore afraid to follow. The shades of the long winter day are falling on the shores of the lonely mountain lake where the rivals have finished their fearful race of the afternoon. Night falls, and the moon makes her appearance, and there, bleeding from long gashes, breathless but dauntless, the stag stands, bellowing forth defiance with all his waning energy. The moon sets and darkness throws a veil over the scene, not to be lifted until morning breaks showing the stag still at bay.

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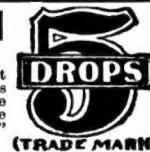
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



leaf. Through the glass we see they are transparent eggs. Very soon you can perceive distinctly the outline of a body inside, with legs, a head with protuberant black eyes; and then a lively creature skips forth, ready to feed or to fight!

These water and air worlds, the first life-stations so to speak, have many and odd patterns. Among the birds, quadrupeds and men the pattern is finally decided upon. You know at least how many legs, arms and eyes to expect and also where to expect them. But Nature has some surprising patterns at the back stairs laboratory. What is really needful? she seems to ask. Here is a stomach with a fringe of hairs to catch its prey. That gets on finely as a water hydia. Some polypus have one stomach in common and thrive very well, indeed. Sometimes the tiny animal has but one foot which it uses as an oar, a spade or a hook at will. Sometimes it has many legs and pro-legs, of unequal lengths. Now the legs will be arranged in two rows like a caterpillar, and again in a circle like the spider's. The eyes may be anywhere, and they may be compound eyes with any number of facets, or they may have several pairs of eyelids, thick and thin, according to need. You can hardly imagine any sort of weapon or defensive device that is not in use by some insect or other. Beside their wings for flight and their own special weapons, horns, claws, beaks, etc., they have every evil device ever known to man; lassoes ingeniously coiled, marks and disguises to conceal their real character, tubes of poison to kill or numb, the hidden daggers of their sharp sting and all sorts of traps and pitfalls. Yes, certainly here have been tried and tested all things for the primitive life—the capture of food for its devouring hunger, ways of escaping or over-coming an enemy, devices of the householder for the preservation of its young, though it must be owned these are often of the simplest. If eggs, they are dropped in a safe place, or perhaps lashed together on a sort of raft and left to their fate. If the young come by budding, they are nourished from the parent stem for a while and then break off and float away to set up a new household. The simplest method of making a family is by division, each piece an entire creature; but, of

course, as the animal grows more complex, has more organs, and more intelligence, this method is put aside. Nothing is more wonderful than the instinct with which some insects provide for the children they will never see. They have never known parents, they will never know their offspring, yet they store up food, they spin silken coverlets, they choose safe shelter. Does not one come near a Divine Father's thought here?

There is a wealth of color, grace, fancy in the decoration of these almost invisible cradles and homes. The butterfly eggs look like Mosques and Minarets of a Moorish city in their rich, fantastic arabesques and twisted coils. Some of the stalls on the Azore Islands might be mistaken for grains of sand, and yet each one, in its curve and recurve, is,

"A work divine,
Made so fairly well
With delicate spire and whirl.
How exquisitely minute,
A miracle of design!"

For softness of texture and perfect daintiness, no human handiwork can excel the silken chrysalids of the moths, the silvery threads of the spider's gossamer, the cell of the burrowing bees, lined with the satin-like petals of the rose and the red poppy. Other insects weave together leaves in bowers of greenery. We find even the grotesque in perfection in the humorous caddis-worm, who covers itself with pebbles and bits of wood until it is quite invisible.

Beauty is given with full hands to the minute things of air and water. Do you notice the dust or powder on a moth's wing that makes it so soft and velvety? Each grain of this dust is a perfect plume. Look at the jelly fish, how they throb and flicker with beautiful colors and lights! How freely is every little creature decorated with a glitter as of gold or silver! The beetle of Brazil, one of the hard, horny beetles, shines like a priceless emerald. The fireflies, the glowworms, thousands of sea-creatures, are their own lamps as well as lamp-bearers, and light the whole region where they are.

No one can make acquaintance with dwellers in the sea, or the invisible neighbors of the microscope-world, without growing keenly interested in their life-histories, full of changes and adventures. The simplest insect begins as an egg, with its store provided with strange foresight, then it is a worm or caterpillar with all sorts of disguises from its many enemies,—protective coloration, and queer attitudes, so that it looks like a leaf or a twig or a bit of moss; hiding-places ingeniously constructed in the leaves, and what is odder still, this pulpy, helpless thing erects its homes, lashes itself from side to side, as if it were a furious beast, to keep away its smaller foes! Next comes the curious self-burial, the long, trance like sleep, and the awakening as a butterfly with its grave-clothes or old skin rolled in a heap, and the sepulcher or chrysalis-case rent apart. It is an old-looking, wrinkled, ugly thing, feeble and drawn up when it first appears, but it hangs itself on a nail or a twig, and stretches and stretches itself to its full size, with smooth wings glorious in color, and at last floats away to revel in sunshine and fragrance and sweetness. Is not this a charming story?

There is something that even looks like a moral choice here, for it is said some individual

insects refuse to bury themselves, and so die incomplete, while others obey the law, and come out glorified. As a writer said once of the tiny sea-creatures, the greatest marvel is that we find here too

"A little living will."

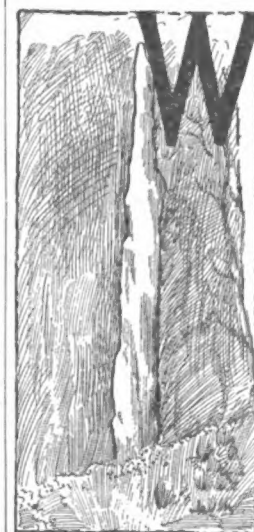
There are twilight places, but by the aid of a glass we may see him,—our sea-neighbor—

"Stand at the diamond door
Of his home in a rainbow frill,
Or push, when he is uncured,
A golden foot or a fairy horn
Through the dim water-world."

Let us learn the secrets of these little neighbors. They are far more charming and wonderful than any Fairy-tales in the world!

The Most Wonderful Cave in the World.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



W HEN Mammoth Cave and the great Caverns of Lura were discovered they were considered the most wonderful in the world, but within a few years, a much more marvelous one has been found in South Dakota, called "Wind Cave." The United States Government has secured control of the cave, the majestic extent and wonderful formations of which have been but little described and seldom pictured. As at present managed, but seven miles of the ninety miles of passageways and chambers which have been invaded by discoverers are open to sightseers. Many of the most gorgeously

altared and tessellated rooms are accessible only after considerable exertion, but under the handiwork of the Government's agents these will have passageways opened or bridges thrown across the narrow chasms, so that the trip can be made not only with safety, but comfort.

In Wind Cave ninety miles of underground passageways have been explored, opening up an aggregate of twenty-five hundred rooms or chambers. The entire distance is possible to be traversed without danger or discomfort, and when the cave shall have been equipped with electric lights, according to the plans suggested to the Government officials now in charge, with bridges over the few narrow chasms which are to be encountered, and the cave thrown open to the public, it will no doubt become one of the most famous resorts in the country.

Like Mammoth Cave the opening is by way of a small cabin. Immediately upon entering

this cabin one is struck by the roaring noise at the rear, the sound approaching that of a high wind sighing through tree-tops. It is this prevalent wind which has given the cave its name.

Stepping inside, the noise ceases, and one first goes down for about one hundred and fifty steps into the blackness of darkness. From this point, the slope towards the interior of the earth is gradual and so slight as not to require exertion either in descending or ascending.

The first of the peculiar formations to be found is a room about twenty to thirty feet in size. The entire side walls and ceiling is of "box-work," consisting of small squares from two to four inches in diameter, and about the same in depth, opening outward and possessing the general appearance of the tiers of boxes in a post-office. The formation is the first process of crystallization, the crystals being very fine and of a reddish brown, similar to the color of the surface soil and rock. From its appearance this room has been called the "post-office," and in the boxes repose the cards of thousands of persons who have visited the cave.

Two or three rooms farther in comes Odd Fellow's hall, two hundred and thirty feet below the surface, and a much larger room than the preceding chambers, but with the crystallization still in a formative state. Beyond this the real beauties of the place begin to be seen. The first change in formation noticeable is that the crystals are growing "crummy" in size and whiteness, in each succeeding chamber becoming harder in appearance and larger in size until the "popcorn" formation is met. This is the first indication of stalactite and stalagmite, and it has been named "Dripstone Paradise."

From this point immense chambers succeed each other, each, as the route descends, showing an increased antiquity and each possessing more of brilliancy of reflection and design of nature's carvings than the preceding. Caverns of gigantic proportions are traversed, one of the smallest being sixty feet in width and over two hundred in length.

From this point the descent is more rapid, yet not so great as to be uncomfortable. As each cavern is now reached through passageways of fair width and a happy dryness, one of the guides hastens in advance to the opposite side and strikes calcium lights, whose brilliancy is reflected far into the darkness above and to the walls on either side, which are here of the hardest crystal formation, niched and carved, polished and scintillating, a veritable palace of diamonds.

Four miles of crystal caverns are traversed from this point, each possessing some point of beauty more interesting and wonderful than has before been seen, the Crystal Palace at the end of the journey forming a climax to an entrancing pleasure and sight-seeing excursion. This chamber is estimated to be thirty-five hundred feet below the surface and is seven miles from the entrance.

Truly it would seem, would it not, that we are just beginning to develop the wonders of this "great and glorious country"?

Mt. St. Elias, supposed to be the highest point in Alaska, is now believed to be in Canadian territory. There are reports of mountains in Alaska far to the northwest, higher than Mt. St. Elias, but not yet verified.